County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
http://ceo.lacounty.gov

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

December 16, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:
CORONER CRYPT BUILDING ADDITION AND
TENANT IMPROVEMENTS RENOVATION PROJECT
APPROVE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION;
ADOPT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM;
APPROVE TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET; ADOPT AND ADVERTISE
SPECS. 6797; C.P. 77354
(FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The recommended actions will allow renovation of the existing Coroner facilities and advertising for construction bids for the Coroner Crypt Building Addition to proceed.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Coroner Crypt Building Addition and Tenant Improvements Renovation project together with any comments received during the public review period, find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgment and analysis of the Board and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Response Program, find that the Mitigation Monitoring and Response Program is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation, find on the basis of the whole record before the Board that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

2. Approve the project and project budget of $32,167,680 for the Coroner Crypt Building Addition and Tenant Improvements Renovation project (C.P. 77354).

3. Adopt plans and specifications for the Coroner Crypt Building Addition at an estimated construction cost of $3,203,252, funded by net County cost, and instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to advertise the project for construction bids to be received and opened on January 15, 2009, in accordance with the Instruction Sheet for Publishing Legal Advertisements.

4. Authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to execute a consultant services agreement with the apparent Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder to prepare a baseline construction schedule for a $5,000 not-to-exceed fee, funded by existing project funds.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Response Program and allow the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to begin renovation of the existing Coroner facilities and to advertise for construction bids for the Coroner Crypt Building Addition located at 1104A North Mission Road, in the City of Los Angeles.

In June 2006, the Chief Executive Office and the Department of Coroner (Coroner) developed recommendations to address decedent storage issues and to improve the operations and services at the Coroner's facility. The capital project consists of renovation to the Old Administration Building (OAB), construction of a new Crypt Building Addition, and reconfiguration of existing space in the 1104A Biological Building to properly separate hazardous and nonhazardous areas and allocate more space for autopsy, laboratory, and forensic support functions.

Renovations to the OAB and relocation of the public services functions were completed in March 2007 using Public Works' job order contract program and the Internal Services Department's (ISD) purchasing program.

Coroner Crypt Building Addition

The proposed Crypt Building Addition will be located adjacent to the 1104A Biological Building and will replace the current crypt and provide additional crypt space, which will increase the total available crypt space to approximately 4,900 square feet. It is recommended that your Board adopt the plans and specifications and advertise for construction bids. Following receipt of bids, scheduled for January 15, 2009, we will return to your Board for award of the construction contract. Construction completion is

anticipated for the summer of 2010 and will be implemented while the Coroner's operations continue in the 1104A Biological Building. Concurrent with construction of the new Crypt Building, renovations and reconfiguration of the 1104A Biological Building will begin.

The proposed consultant services agreement requires the apparent Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder to prepare a baseline construction schedule that conforms to the County's schedule specification, which is critical to successfully managing construction activities by both the contractor and the County. Bid specifications provide that if the apparent Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder fails to complete an acceptable schedule, the Director of Public Works or her designee may return to your Board to recommend that the bidder be determined nonresponsible and recommend awarding the construction contract to the next apparent Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder, contingent on that bidder completing a baseline schedule that conforms to the County's specifications.

Coroner Tenant Improvements

Renovations to the 1104A Biological Building will include upgrade of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system to improve ventilation and air circulation, and reconfiguration of the interior spaces to provide more space for autopsy, laboratory, and forensic support functions. This proposed scope of work will be implemented using the Board-approved Public Works' job order contract program and ISD's purchasing program and will be sequenced in such a way as to allow the Coroner's operations to continue uninterrupted. The tenant improvements are anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2014.

Sustainable Design Program

The project will support your Board's Policy for Green Building/Sustainable Design Program to the extent feasible by using building materials that are composed of recycled materials; by replacing and/or upgrading the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems to optimize energy efficiency; reducing the amount of demolition materials that would be disposed in landfills; and renovating the interior spaces to improve the indoor environmental quality and provide a healthy work environment for the Coroner staff.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Service Excellence (Goal 1), Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3), and Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 4) by investing in public health infrastructure and providing an efficient workplace environment at the Coroner facility.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated construction project cost totals $24,720,510 and is comprised of $1,285,102 for the renovation of the OAB; $3,203,252 for the new Crypt Building Addition; $13,369,398 for the renovations to the 1104A Biological Building; $2,134,392 for unforeseen site conditions; $2,838,100 for a construction contingency fund; $176,000 for civic art; and $1,714,266 for furniture and equipment. The total project cost, including programming, plans and specifications, plan check, construction, furniture and equipment, civic art, consultant services, miscellaneous expenditures, and County services, is currently estimated at $32,167,680, which is $31,000 less than the amount of $32,198,680 previously approved by your Board on August 15, 2006. The $31,000 decrease is the Civic Art Policy administrative fee transferred to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Project Schedule and Project Budget Summary are included in Attachment A.

Sufficient appropriation is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Capital Projects/Refurbishments Budget – Coroner Crypt Building and Renovations project (C.P. 77354) to fund the project.

The proposed project is funded with $12,091,680 General Fund net County cost and $20,076,000 financed initially through the issuance of tax-exempt commercial paper and ultimately the issuance of long-term, tax-exempt bonds.

Operating Budget Impact

The initial projected expenditures in Fiscal Year 2009-10 for the new Crypt Building are estimated at $95,000, including $70,000 for operations, $5,000 for maintenance supplies, and a $20,000 net increase for utilities. These projected expenditures will be recurring annually and will be encumbered from the Board-approved Coroner's budget.

Upon completion of the entire renovation project, the Coroner will work with the Chief Executive Office to determine the appropriate level of associated maintenance and operation cost increases. The identified funding source will be appropriations requested in the Coroner's Services and Supplies Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The contract will be in the form previously reviewed and approved by County Counsel. The recommended contract will be solicited on an open, competitive basis and in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and County requirements.

The contract will contain terms and conditions supporting your Board's ordinances, policies, and programs, including but not limited to: County's Greater Avenues for Independence and General Relief Opportunities for Work Programs (GAIN/GROW), Board Policy No. 5.050; Contract Language to Assist in Placement of Displaced County Workers, Board Policy No. 5.110; Reporting of Improper Solicitations, Board Policy No. 5.060; Notice to Contract Employees of Newborn Abandonment Law (Safely Surrendered Baby Law), Board Policy No. 5.135; Contractor Employee Jury Service Program, Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.203; Notice to Employees Regarding the Federal Earned Income Credit (Federal Income Tax Law, Internal Revenue Service Notice 1015); Contractor Responsibility and Debarment, Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.202; the Los Angeles County's Child Support Compliance Program, Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.200; and the standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination or renegotiation.

To ensure that the contract is awarded to the Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder with a satisfactory history of performance, bidders are required to report violations of the False Claims Act, criminal convictions, civil litigation, defaulted contracts with the County, complaints filed with the contractor's State License Board, labor law/payroll violations, and debarment actions. As provided for in Board Policy No. 5.140, the information reported by the contractor will be considered before making a recommendation to award.

The plans and specifications include the contractual provisions, methods, and material requirements necessary for this project and are on file with Public Works.

The total project cost includes an allocation to the Civic Art Fund per your Board's Civic Art Policy adopted on December 7, 2004. The civic art component is a collaboration between the selected artist and the landscape architect to redesign the impacted garden/green space between the 1102 and 1104A buildings as a quiet outdoor respite for visitors and staff that will feature enhanced landscaping, integrated seating, picnic tables, and artwork.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study was prepared for the proposed project. The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects of the project on biological resources, cultural resources, and geology and soils. Prior to the release of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Initial Study for public review, revisions in the project were made or agreed to which would avoid the significant effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, as follows:

Biological Resources: Should clearing, grading or tree removal occur during breeding season for certain migratory birds, a preconstruction survey shall be performed to protect birds within 300-500 feet of the construction area and construction limits shall be established and personnel trained in the sensitivity of the area.

Cultural Resources: Ground disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archeological monitor and archeologist. Established protocols will be implemented in the event that archeological materials are uncovered. If human remains are discovered, established protocols would be followed to reduce the possible impact.

Geology and Soils: Design of the crypt will adhere to recommendations and parameters established in the geotechnical report. Excavation and backfilling will be supervised by a representative of a qualified geotechnical engineer. Undocumented compressible material will be removed.

The Initial Study and project revisions showed that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the County, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the Initial Study and project revisions, an MND was prepared for this project. The proposed Mitigation Monitoring and Response Program (Section 8 of Attachment B) was prepared to ensure compliance with the environmental mitigation measures included as part of the final MND relative to these areas during project implementation.

Public Notice was published in the Eastside Sun on November 1 and 15, 2007, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092 and posted pursuant to Section 21092.3. During the 30-day comment period, one written comment to the MND was received from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse). In addition, one written comment was received from the Native American Heritage Commission. All comments received, as well as responses to the comments, are contained in the final MND (Section 7 of Attachment B) and sent to these agencies pursuant to Section 21092.5. The final MND also contains an analysis of climate change. This new information does not constitute a substantial revision of the MND.

The location of the documents and other materials constituting the record of the proceedings upon which your Board's decision is based in this matter is the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Project Management Division I, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 5th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803. The custodian of such documents and materials is Patty Rohrer, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

The project is not exempt from payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Game, pursuant to Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code, to defray the costs of fish and wildlife protection and management incurred by the California Department of Fish and Game. Upon your Board's adoption of the MND, Public Works will file a Notice of Determination in accordance with Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required filing and processing fees with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in the amount of $1,850.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On August 15, 2006, your Board awarded an architectural/engineering design services agreement to HMC Architects for a $2,547,150 not-to-exceed fee.

Advertising for bids will be in accordance with the County's standard Instruction Sheet for Publishing Legal Advertisements (Attachment C).

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, this contract opportunity will be listed on the Doing Business with Us website.

Participation by Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' Capital Projects' CBE Outreach Program and by monitoring the good faith efforts of bidders to utilize CBE.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed project is being implemented in phases in order to allow current Coroner operations to continue within the facility. The project specifications require the contractor to coordinate its construction schedule with the daily functions and activities of the Coroner facility to minimize disruption of services and to maintain access to the Coroner during construction.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division; and one to Public Works, Project Management Division I.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTD:GF:DL
JSE:DJT:DKM:zu

Attachments (3)

c: County Counsel
Department of Coroner
Department of Pubic Works
Office of Affirmative Action Compliance (Ozie Smith)

December 16, 2008

ATTACHMENT A

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:
CORONER CRYPT BUILDING ADDITION AND
TENANT IMPROVEMENTS RENOVATION PROJECT
APPROVE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
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APPROVE TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
ADOPT AND ADVERTISE
SPECS. 6797; C.P. 77354

I. PROJECT SCHEDULE

Project Activity	Crypt Building Addition Schedule	Tenant Improvements Schedule
Award Design Contract	08/15/06*	08/15/06*
Schematic Design	02/05/07*	03/12/07*
Design Development	06/04/07*	10/15/07*
Construction Documents	10/01/07*	12/19/07*
Jurisdictional Approvals	04/29/08*	07/01/08*
Construction Award	03/10/09	04/02/09
Construction Start	04/06/09	04/16/09
Substantial Completion	06/18/10	02/14/14
Final Acceptance	08/19/10	04/17/14

* Actual completion date.

PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY

Project Activity	Approved Project Budget	Impact of Action	Proposed Budget
Land Acquisition	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Construction			
Low Bid Construction Contract (Crypt Bldg)	$ 4,000,000	$ (796,748)	3,203,252
Design-Build Contract	0	0	0
Job Order Contract			
Old Administration Building	2,250,000	(964,898)	1,285,102
1104A Building Renovations	14,920,400	(1,551,002)	13,369,398
Purchase Order Contract	0	0	0
Construction Change Orders	2,838,100	0	2,838,100
Unforeseen Site Conditions	0	2,134,392	2,134,392
Departmental Crafts	0	0	0
Youth Employment	0	0	0
Construction Consultants	0	0	0
Misc. Expense	0	0	0
Telecomm Equip – Affixed to Building	0	0	0
Furniture and Equipment	500,000	1,214,266	1,714,266
Civic Arts *	0	176,000	176,000
Subtotal	$ 24,508,500	$ 212,010	$ 24,720,510
Programming/Development	$ 357,625	$ (4,830)	$ 352,795
Plans and Specs	$ 2,547,150	$ 0	$ 2,547,150
Consultant Services			
Site Planning	$ 36,000	$ (36,000)	$ 0
Hazardous Materials	310,000	0	310,000
Geotech/Soils Report and Soils Testing	100,250	0	100,250
Material Testing	70,000	(20,000)	50,000
Cost Estimating	0	0	0
Topographic Surveys	18,350	0	18,350
Construction Management	0	0	0
Construction Administration	0	636,788	636,788
Environmental	62,000	(20,077)	41,923
Move Management	0	0	0
Equipment Planning	0	0	0
Legal	0	0	0
Construction/Change Order	0	0	0
Other: Methane Gas Survey	8,050	0	8,050
Other: HVAC Air Balancing	37,675	(700)	36,975
Subtotal	$ 642,325	$ 560,011	$ 1,202,336
Miscellaneous Expenditures	$ 250,000	$ (240,500)	$ 9,500

Project Activity	Approved Project Budget	Impact of Action	Proposed Budget
Jurisdictional Review/Plan Check/Permit	$ 25,000	$ 45,000	$ 70,000
County Services			
Code Compliance and Quality Control Inspection	$ 1,399,000	$ (383,833)	$ 1,015,167
Design Review	65,000	35,000	100,000
Design Services	200,000	(48,907)	151,093
Contract Administration	99,080	(3,543)	95,537
Project Management	1,700,000	(63,666)	1,636,334
Project Management Support Services	100,000	(72,565)	27,435
ISD Job Order Contract Management	0	0	0
DPW Job Order Contract Management	0	0	0
ISD ITS Communications	0	0	0
Project Security	0	0	0
Project Technical Support	200,000	(65,177)	134,823
Office of Affirmative Action	30,000	0	30,000
County Counsel	0	0	0
Other: Coroner (Zone 5 Maintenance)	75,000	0	75,000
Sheriff Job Order Contract Management	0	0	0
Subtotal	$ 3,868,080	$ (602,691)	$ 3,265,389
TOTAL	**$ 32,198,680**	**$ (31,000)**	**$ 32,167,680**

* Civic Art Administrative Fee of $31,000 (15 percent of the 1 percent Civic Art Project Charge) is transferred to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Operating Budget.

December 16, 2008

ATTACHMENT B

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:
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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM
(see attachment)

December 16, 2008

ATTACHMENT C

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:
CORONER CRYPT BUILDING ADDITION AND
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SPECS. 6797; C.P. 77354

PUBLISHING LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS: In accordance with the State of California Public Contract Code Section 20125, you may publish once a week for two weeks in a weekly newspaper or ten times in a daily newspaper. Forward three reprints of this advertisement to Architectural Engineering Division, Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 8th Floor, Alhambra, California 91803-1331.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Public Works will receive sealed bids for furnishing all materials, labor, and equipment required to complete construction for the following work:

SD	SPECS	PROJECT	BID DOC FEE	DATE OF BID OPENING
1	6797	Department of Coroner Crypt Building Addition 1104A North Mission Road Los Angeles, CA 90033	$75.00	January 15, 2009

Copies of the project manual and drawings may be obtained at the Cashier's office, Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Mezzanine, Alhambra, California 91803, for the fee stated above. For bid information, please contact Kathleen Gandara of Architectural Engineering Division at (626) 458-2566. Each bid shall be submitted on the required form, sealed, and filed at the Cashier's office no later than 10:45 a.m. on the date indicated. Bids will be publicly opened, examined, and declared by the Department of Public Works at 11 a.m. on this date in the Main Conference Room, 5th Floor, at 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803.

Bids must conform to the drawings and project manual and all bidding requirements. This project requires the prime contractor to possess an active B license classification at the time of bid. The contractor must verify to the County's satisfaction that he/she holds the correct license and experience for this type of project

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting. The contractor shall make good faith efforts as defined in Section 2000 of the Public Contract Code relating to contracting with Community Business Enterprises.

The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive technical or inconsequential errors and discrepancies in bids submitted in the public's interest.

Si necesita información en español, por favor llame al Telefono (626) 458-2563.

Upon 72 hours notice, the Department of Public Works can provide program information and publications in alternate formats or make other accommodations for people with disabilities. In addition, program documents are available at the Department of Public Works' main office in Alhambra (900 South Fremont Avenue), which is accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations ONLY or for more Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information, please contact the Department of Public Works' ADA Coordinator at (626) 458-4081 or TDD (626) 282-7829, Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Con 72 horas de notificación, el Departamento de Obras Públicas puede proveerle información y publicaciones sobre el programa y formatos alternativos o hacer adaptaciones para personas con incapacidades. Además, documentación sobre el programa está disponible en la oficina principal del Departamento de Obras Públicas localizada en Alhambra (900 South Fremont Avenue), la cual es accesible para personas con incapacidades. Solamente si necesita solicitar adaptaciones o para mas información del ADA, póngase en contacto con nuestro Coordinador del ADA al (626) 458-4081 o TDD (626) 282-7829, de lunes a jueves de las 7 a.m. a 5:30 p.m.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, dated December 16, 2008.

Specs. 6797

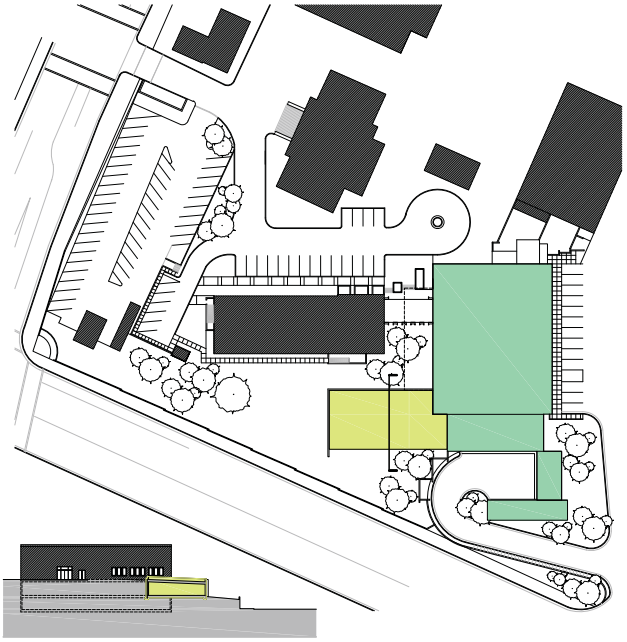
SACHI A. HAMAI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

NOVEMBER 2008

FINAL

Coroner Crypt Building and Medical Examiner Building Tenant Improvement Project

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



prepared for:
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Project Management Division I
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SCH#2007111004

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CORONER CRYPT BUILDING AND MEDICAL EXAMINER TENANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared for:
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, PMD I, 5th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Prepared by:
EDAW, Inc.
800 East Colorado Boulevard, Suite 270
Pasadena, CA 91101

November 2008

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CORONER CRYPT BUILDING AND MEDICAL EXAMINER TENANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The County of Los Angeles Department of Coroner Crypt Building and Medical Examiner Tenant Improvement Project Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) was circulated for public review between November 1, 2007 and November 30, 2007. During this public review period, one letter of comment was received from public agencies and no letters of comment were received from citizens. In response to the comment and newly developed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) guidelines and policies, revisions have been made to the text of the Draft IS/MND. None of the significance determinations have changed since the Draft IS/MND and no new mitigation measures have been added. The changes to the Draft IS/MND include:

- Clarification of compliance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Section 15064.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in the event of accidental discovery of human remains (see Section 4.5).
- Addition of background information regarding applicable GHG policies and guidance.
- Addition of a cumulative impact analysis of GHG emissions associated with the proposed project.

The aforementioned clarifications has been incorporated directly into the Final IS/MND, which includes the revised Draft IS/MND sections, as well as two new sections. Section 7.0, Response to Comments, was added and includes copies of the one Draft MND comment letter and corresponding response; and Section 9.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, was added and provides a checklist to fulfill the project's mitigation monitoring and reporting requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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LIST OF FIGURES

1 INTRODUCTION

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW) has prepared this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to address the environmental effects of the proposed Los Angeles County Department of Coroner Crypt Building and Medical Examiner Building Tenant Improvement Project (proposed project). This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 et.seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 et.seq. DPW is the CEQA lead agency for this project.

The proposed project involves the construction of a new crypt building and the tenant improvements to the existing County Coroner Medical Examiner facility within the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. The proposed project is described in detail in Section 2.0, Project Description. The project would alleviate the crowding of the existing cold storage space for decedents, improve the working conditions for the employees and staff of the Coroner's Department by bringing the operational systems of the building up to current standards, and increase the operational capacity of the Department of Coroner.

1.1 CEQA PROCESS

This IS/MND has been prepared pursuant to the CEQA guidelines, including Sections 15063, 15070, and 15071. This document summarizes and addresses the results of the IS prepared to determine if any significant environmental effects would occur from the proposed project. In accordance with the CEQA statutes and Guidelines for circulation of a negative declaration, a 30-day public review period for this IS/MND began on November 1, 2007 and concluded on November 30, 2007. The Draft IS/MND was distributed to interested or involved public agencies, organizations, and private individuals for review. In addition, the Draft IS/MND was available for general public review at:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
PMD I, 5th Floor
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331
M – Th 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Malabar Branch Library
2801 Wabash Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033
M, W 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
T, Th 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
F, Sa 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

During the 30-day review period, the public agencies, organizations, and individuals had an opportunity to provide written comments on the information contained within the Draft IS/MND. The public comments on the Draft IS/MND and responses to public comments have been incorporated into this Final IS/MND. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) will use the Final IS/MND for all environmental decisions related to this project. Prior to approving a project, the Board will consider the project in conjunction with comments received during the review period. A project will only be approved

when the Board "finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the IS/MND reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis". When Adopting an IS/MND, a monitoring program must also be adopted to ensure implementation of mitigation required as a condition of approval.

1.2 DOCUMENT FORMAT

This IS/MND contains eight sections. Section 1, Introduction, provides an overview of the project and the CEQA environmental documentation process. Section 2, Project Description, provides a detailed description of project objectives and components. Section 3, Initial Study Checklist, presents the CEQA checklist for all impact areas and mandatory findings of significance. Section 4, Impacts and Mitigation Measures, presents the environmental analysis for each issue area identified on the environmental checklist form. If the proposed project does not have the potential to significantly impact a given issue area, the relevant section provides a brief discussion of the reasons why no impacts are expected. If the proposed project could have a potentially significant impact on a resource, the issue area discussion provides a description of potential impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures and/or permit requirements that would reduce those impacts to a less than significant level. Section 5, References, provides a list of reference materials used during the preparation of the IS/MND, and Section 6, List of Preparers, provides a list of key personnel involved in the preparation of the IS/MND. Section 7, Response to Comments, provides the comment letters received during the 30-day review period for the Draft IS/MND, followed by the responses from LADPW. Section 8, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, provides a checklist to fulfill the project's mitigation monitoring and reporting requirements under CEQA.

The environmental analysis included in Section 4 is consistent with the CEQA Initial Study format presented in Section 3. Impacts are separated into the following categories:

Potentially Significant Impact. This category is applicable if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant, and no feasible mitigation measures can be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Less than Significant After Mitigation Incorporated. This category applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce an effect from a "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measure(s), and briefly explain how they would reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).

Less than Significant Impact. This category is identified when the project would result in impacts below the threshold of significance, and no mitigation measures are required.

No Impact. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. "No Impact" answers do not require a detailed explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency, which show that the impact does not apply to the specific project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

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2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Los Angeles County Department of Coroner (Coroner) is located in the downtown area of the City of Los Angeles (see Figure 2-1, Regional Map). The project site is located approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) and the Golden State Freeway (I-5) within the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood of the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan Area. The project site is bounded by Marengo Street to the south and west, Mission Road to the north, and Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center to the east (see Figure 2-2, Vicinity Map).

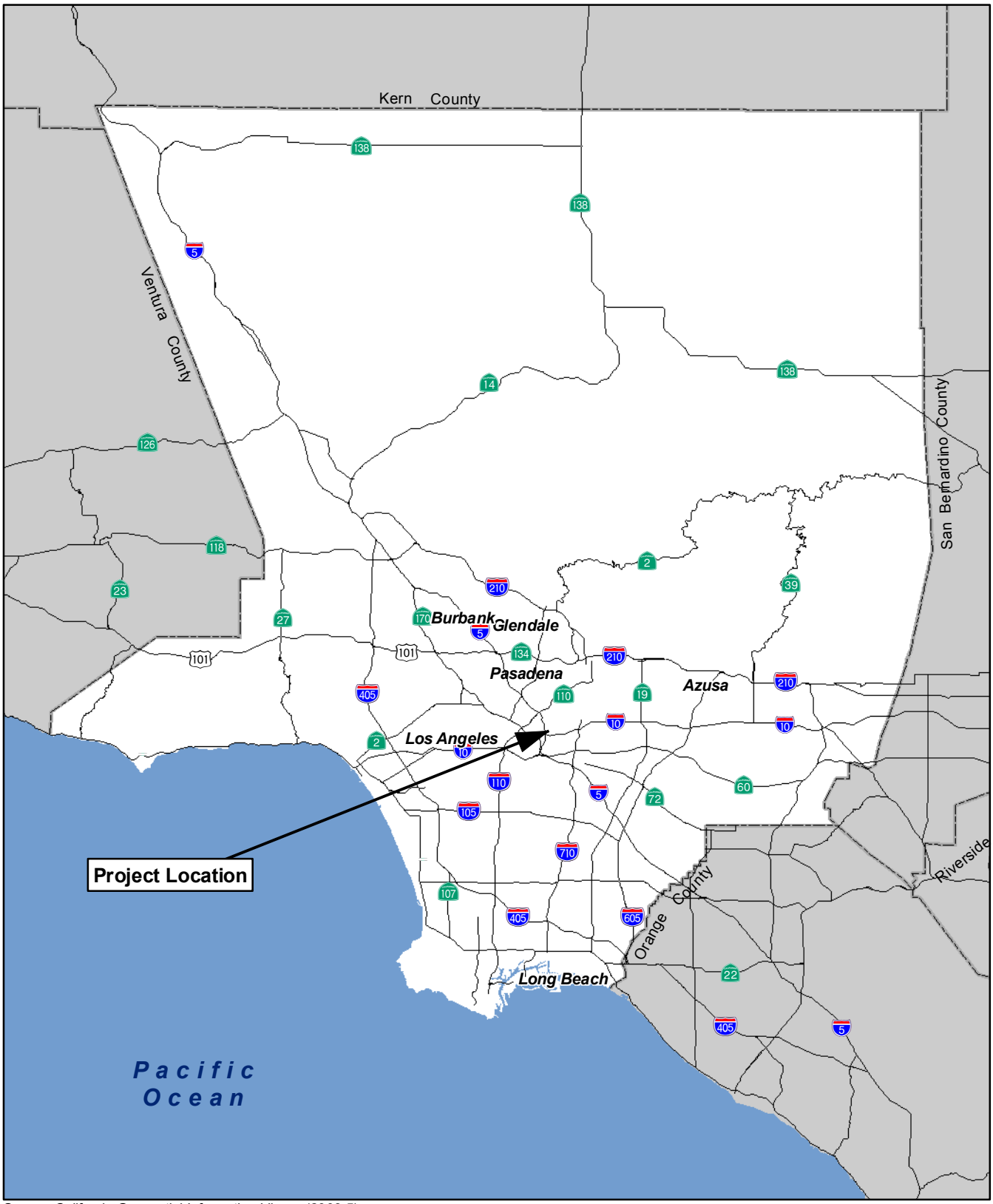
2.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Coroner was created with the establishment of the County of Los Angeles in 1850. The Coroner is responsible for inquiring into and determining the circumstances, manner, and cause of all deaths in Los Angeles County that "are, or seem to be, sudden, violent, unusual, or deaths where a physician has not seen the decedent 20 days prior to death" (Coroner 2004).

As shown on Figure 2-3, Existing Site Plan, the Coroner facility is comprised of a three-story Administration building and a four-story Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, as well as associated support services facilities, including the Old Administration building, loading dock/carport, and a temporary crypt. The Administration building, originally constructed in 1971, is approximately 7,200 square-feet, while the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, built congruently, is approximately 48,000 square-feet. The existing buildings are presently equipped with outdated and inadequate electrical and mechanical systems and do not meet the Coroner's current operational requirements. Accordingly, employees and staff are susceptible to potential outbreaks of communicable airborne illnesses and exposure to hazardous materials present within the systems.

The Coroner interfaces with law enforcement and health agencies, courts, and mortuaries. A staff of over 200 includes investigators, scientists, administrators and physicians. The current demand for the Coroner's service exceeds the facility's existing capacity. Of approximately 60,000 deaths a year in Los Angeles County, about 20,000 are reviewed by the Coroner and 10,000 are investigated. During 2004, the Coroner was required to examine 9,465 of the 18,659 cases reported that year. In addition, 593 decedents were left unclaimed by their next of kin that year.

The proposed project would consist of tenant improvements to the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, including rehabilitating the mechanical systems (heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and plumbing), upgrading the electrical systems of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, and related abatement of hazardous materials associated with the existing systems. In addition, the interiors of the basement and service levels of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building would be remodeled. The



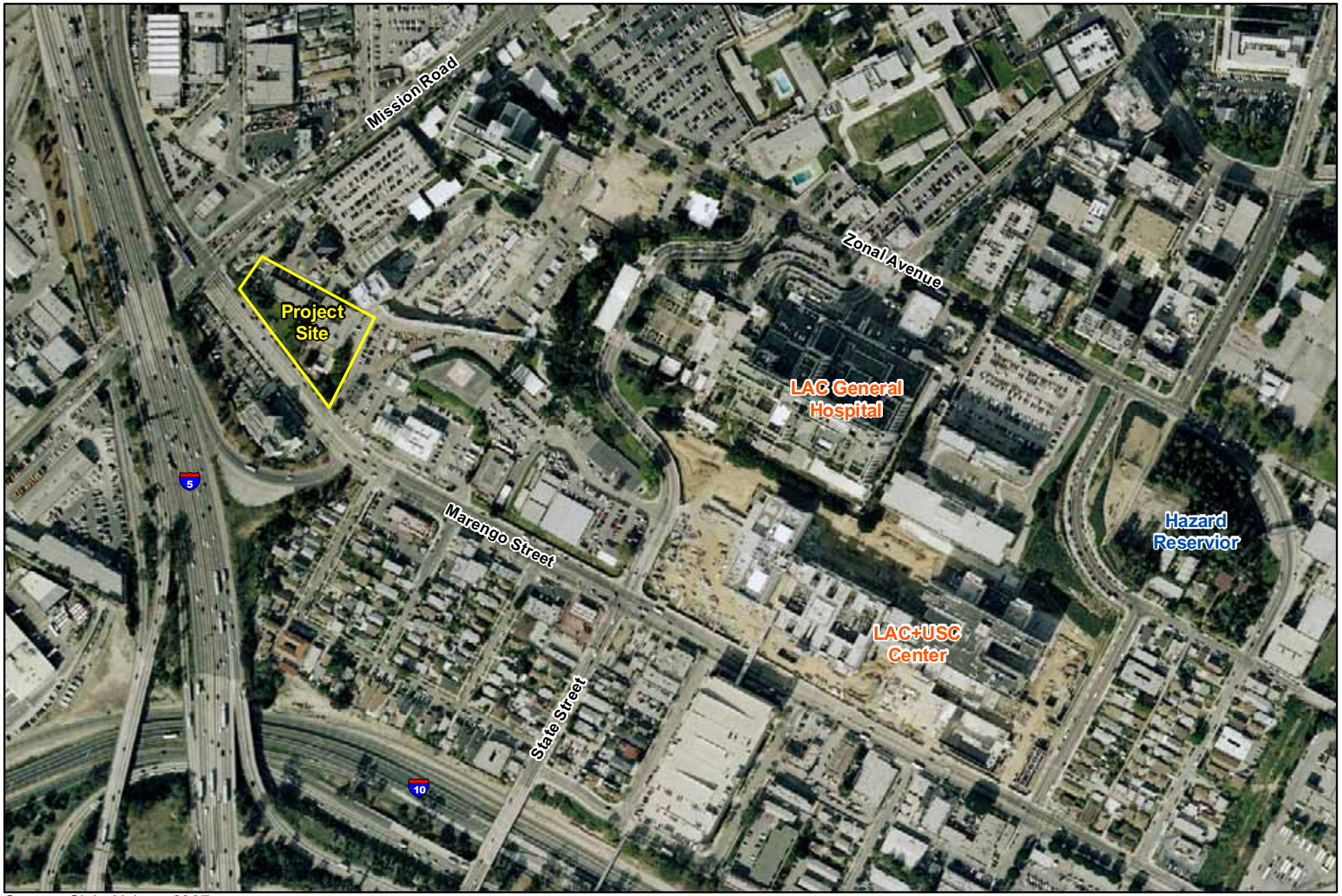
Source: California Geospatial Information Library (2003-5)

N

1 inch equals 12 miles

0 3 6 12 18 24 Miles

Figure 2-1
Regional Location Map



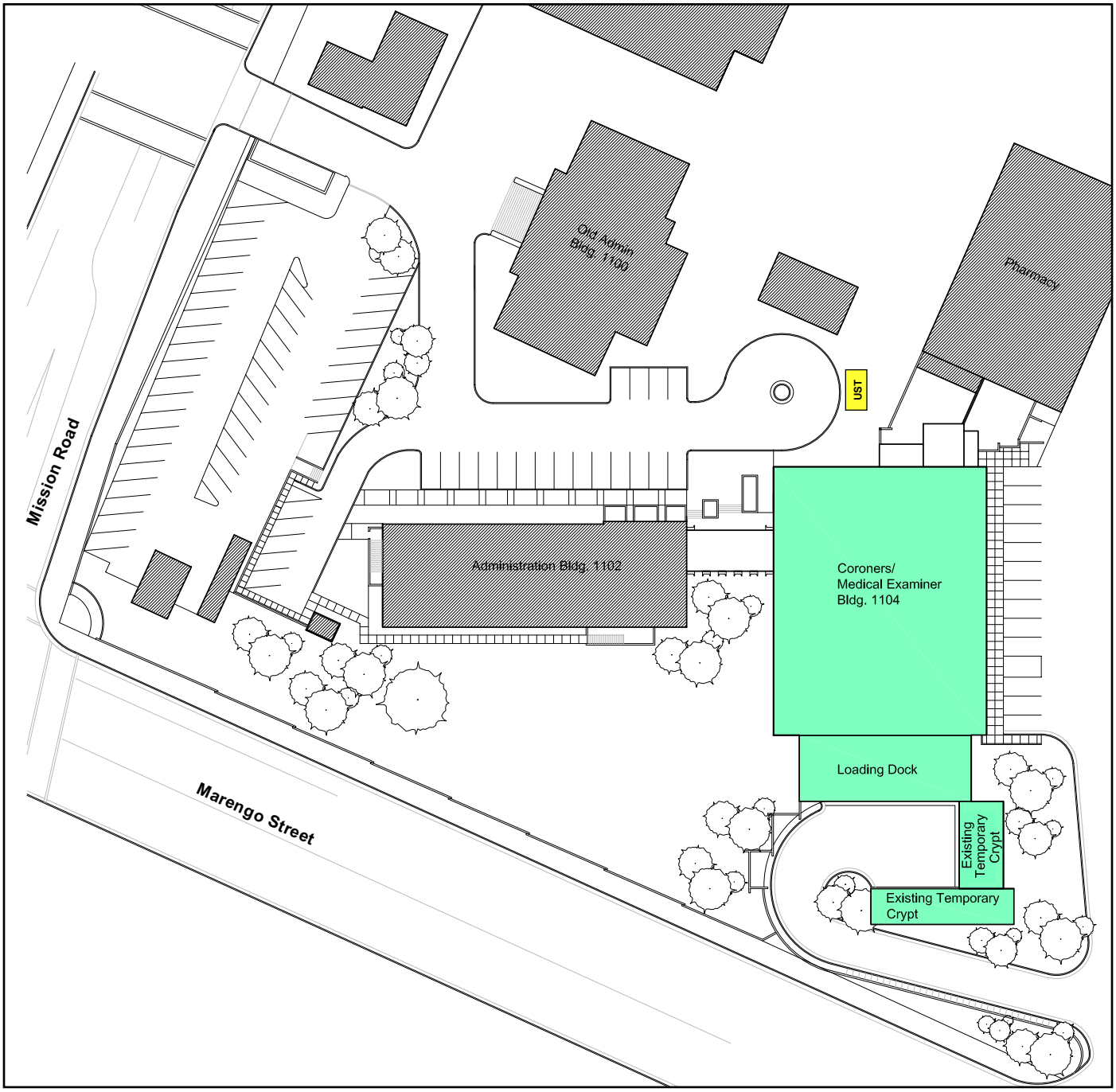
Source: GlobeXplorer 2007

N

1 inch equals 450 feet

0 230 460 920 Feet

Figure 2-2
Vicinity Map



Source: HMC Architects

Figure 2-3
Existing Site Plan

project would also construct a 4,893 square-foot walk-in crypt building and artwork that will abut the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. This additional crypt space will alleviate the crowding of the existing cold storage space for decedents. The project would improve the working conditions for the employees and staff of the Coroner by bringing the operational systems of the buildings up to current standards, and would increase the operational capacity of the Coroner. Specifically, the project would fulfill these major objectives:

- To abate hazardous materials associated with the existing systems and building materials of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building;
- To bring the mechanical and electrical systems of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's buildings up to current standards, reducing the potential for employee exposure to communicable airborne illnesses;
- To remodel the interiors of the basement and service levels of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, allowing for improved functionality of Coroner services; and
- To construct a permanent walk-in crypt building for the cold storage of the deceased, increasing the existing capacity to meet current needs.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

2.3.1 PROJECT SITE

The Coroner site comprises approximately 4.2 acres in downtown Los Angeles, just south of Lincoln Heights. Coroner and Medical Examiner services are carried out within the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, while department and site administration services are carried out within the Old Administration building and the adjacent Administration building. Ingress/Egress to the site is from Mission Road, while decedents are transported to the Coroner's Medical Examiner building via a loading dock on the south side of the building off of Marengo Avenue. Approximately 152 parking spaces are located throughout the site. See Figure 2-4 for photos of the project site and Figure 2-5 for the proposed site layout, including project access and staging areas.

2.3.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS

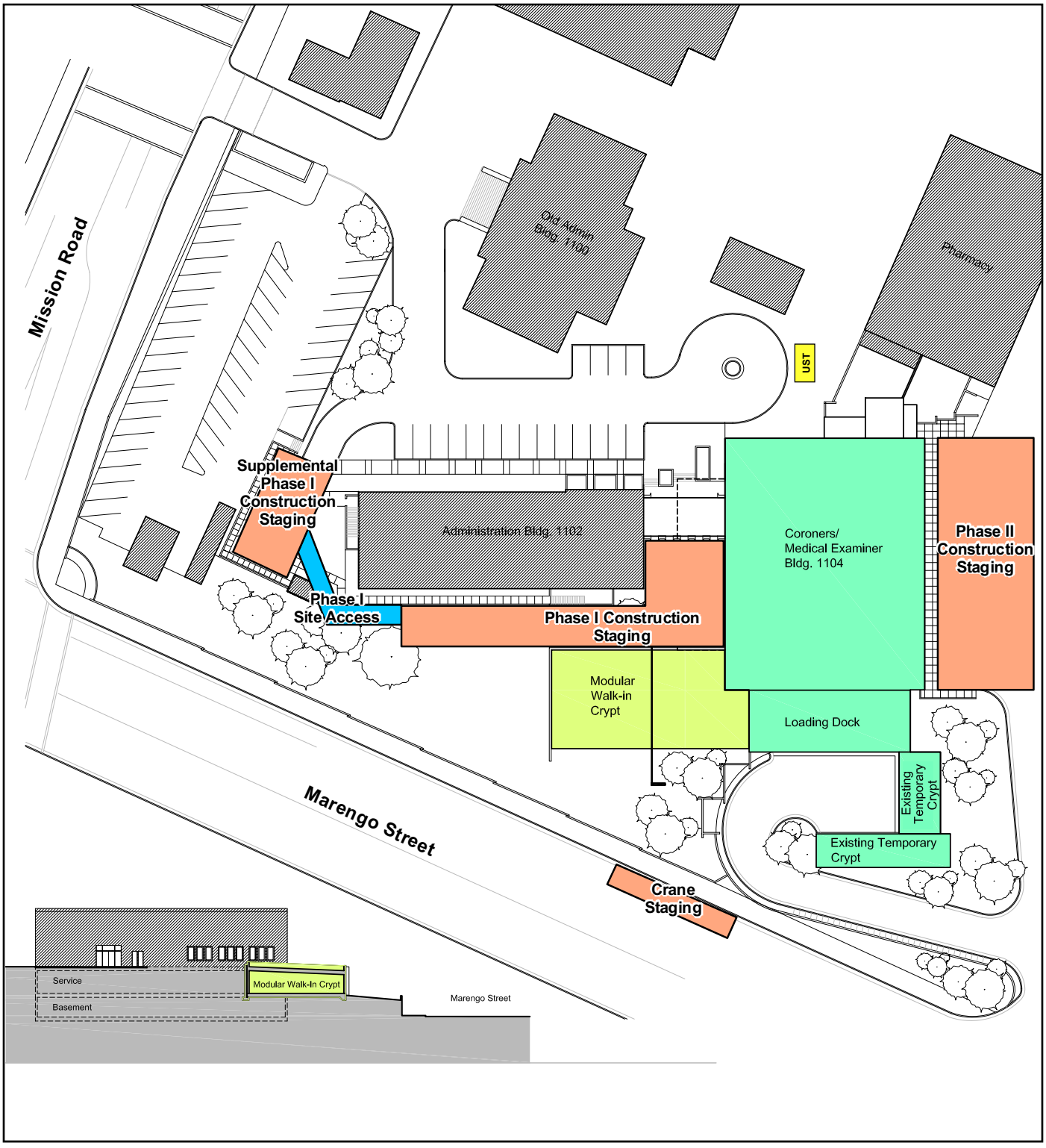
The project components, described below, include: (1) construction of the walk-in crypt building; and (2) tenant improvements to the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. All operations of the Coroner would continue throughout construction.

Figure 2-4a Trees to be Removed

Figure 2-4b Location of Proposed Crypt

Figure 2-4c Phase I Site Access

Figure 2-4d Hillside of Proposed Crypt from Loading Dock



Source: HMC Architects

Figure 2-5
Proposed Project, Site Access, and Construction Staging

CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALK-IN CRYPT BUILDING

Construction of the walk-in crypt building would involve the excavation of approximately 2,250 cubic yards of soil from the existing hillside to the west of the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. The hillside would be supported with retaining walls. The crypt building would be constructed of pre-fabricated concrete walls with Styrofoam insulated panels on a concrete slab foundation. The foundation and walls would be lowered onto the site by a crane, which would be temporarily located on Marengo Street for approximately two weeks (see Figure 2-5). Operational access to the crypt would be through the service floor of the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building with two emergency exits to a walkway. Mechanical systems for the proposed crypt would be located on the concrete slab foundation and mounted on the roof. Landscaped green screens would be aesthetically and artistically placed along the south side of the crypt, viewable from Marengo Avenue. Additional artwork would adorn the north side of the building, facing the existing parking lot.

TENANT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CORONER'S MEDICAL EXAMINER'S BUILDING

The proposed project would include the complete rehabilitation of the existing mechanical systems (including heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and plumbing) and the upgrade of the electrical systems of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, as well as the interior remodeling of the basement and service levels of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, including autopsy suites, processing areas, restrooms/locker rooms, offices, laboratories, and storage areas.

2.3.3 CONSTRUCTION SCENARIO

Construction of the proposed project would begin in spring 2009 and is expected to continue for approximately 70 months. As discussed, construction would occur in two phases: (1) construction of the walk-in crypt building; and (2) tenant improvements to the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. Table 2-1 presents the proposed construction schedule for the project.

TABLE 2-1 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Activity	Duration (Approx.)
Phase I	14 months
Phase II	56 months
Total Construction Period	**70 months**

Construction activities associated with Phase I would include utility clearance, clearing of existing landscape materials, excavation of the hillside, construction of site retaining walls, installation of building slab/foundation and pre-cast crypt building via crane, and installation of associated operational systems. All activities associated with Phase I would occur outside of the existing building. Access and staging for the construction equipment is anticipated to be from the west of the hillside, south of the Administration building (see Figure 2-5). Coordination with the City of Los Angeles for proper parking permits and

sidewalk closures for the crane would be undertaken prior to the start of construction. This phase is anticipated to last approximately 14 months. Landscaped green screens would be placed along the southern side of the crypt building, facing Marengo Street while artwork would be placed on the north side, facing the parking lot.

Phase II construction activities would be conducted in five phases to ensure uninterrupted operation of the Coroner and would require the relocation of existing Coroner services and operations as each phase of the tenant improvements is completed. The basement and Service levels would be remodeled and the interiors would be reconfigured to improve the operational functionality of the Coroner. The project phasing would begin at the vacated cold storage area to create new autopsy suites. The next phase would continue with the vacation of the existing autopsy area with the tenant improvement of the processing areas followed by the new restroom/locker areas and so on. During each phase, the existing mechanical and electrical systems would be removed and updated and improved systems would be installed. Hazardous materials associated with the existing systems and building materials would be removed and abated as part of each phase of the tenant improvements. Phase II would require minor demolition of the roof materials for the installation of the new roof mounted mechanical equipment. Phase II is anticipated to last approximately 56 months.

All construction and operation activities associated with the proposed project would be in accordance with applicable required local, state, and federal regulations and permit requirements. In addition, the project would comply with the County's internal Stormwater Quality Management Program (SQMP) requirements, as well as develop a project specific General Conditions Specifications for the contractor to implement, which would include measures for the identification and removal of potential hazardous materials encountered during construction.

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3 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1.	**Project title:**	County of Los Angeles Department of Coroner Crypt Building and Medical Examiner Building Tenant Improvement Project
2.	**Lead agency:**	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works 900 South Fremont Avenue Alhambra, California 91803-1331
3.	**Contact person:**	Patty Rohrer County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Project Management Division I 900 South Fremont Avenue Alhambra, California 91803-1331
4.	**Project location:**	County of Los Angeles Department of Coroner 1104A North Mission Road Los Angeles, CA 90033
5.	**General plan designation:**	Public Facilities
6.	**Zoning:**	PF-1
7.	**Description of project:**	The County of Los Angeles proposes tenant improvements for the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, as well as the construction of a 4,893 square-foot walk-in crypt building that will abut the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building.
8.	**Surrounding land uses/setting:**	The project site is located within the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood of the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan Area. The site is surrounded on all sides by the urban, developed area of downtown Los Angeles. Public facilities are located to the south and east of the site while industrial uses surround the site to the north and west.

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the proposed project and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Pedestrian Safety
☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

3.2 DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☒

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. ☐

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Signature Date

P.D. Rohrer
Principal Facilities Project Manager
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
1. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
e. Create a new source of substantial shade or shadow that would adversely affect daytime views in the area?				X
2. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson act contract?				X
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				X
3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	
4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?			X	
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?		X		
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		X		
6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b. Result in substantial soil erosion, loss of topsoil, or changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill?			X	
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?		X		

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				X
7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X	
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			X	
9. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?				X

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X
10. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X
11. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
12. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
13. PUBLIC SERVICES.				
a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?				X
ii) Police protection?				X
iii) Schools?				X
iv) Parks?				X
v) Other public facilities?				X
14. RECREATION.				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
15. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a. Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X	
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?			X	
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
c. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X	
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	
17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X	
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.			X	
c. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

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4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

4.1 AESTHETICS

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON A SCENIC VISTA?

No Impact. Phase I of the proposed project would construct a new 4,893 square-foot crypt building on the project site. However, the site is located within a developed, urban area of downtown Los Angeles and the building would be below-grade. The site is surrounded on all sides by industrial uses and I-5; no scenic vistas are present on or near the site. Additionally, the tenant improvements component of the proposed project, including rehabilitation of the existing electrical and mechanical systems, would occur within the existing building and would not be visible from outside of the project site. Accordingly, no impact to scenic vistas would occur as a result of the proposed project.

b) SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGE SCENIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TREES, ROCK OUTCROPPINGS, AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS WITHIN A STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY?

No Impact. The project site located adjacent to I-5 and within approximately 0.3-mile of I-10. Neither of these two segments of roadway is designated as a State Scenic Highway, nor have they been determined to be eligible for designation (DOT 1999). Although the project would involve the removal of seven landscape trees (see discussion in Section 4.4, Biological Resources), and the construction of a new building in a currently undeveloped portion of the existing lot, no scenic highways are present and no damage to scenic resources would occur.

c) SUBSTANTIALLY DEGRADE THE EXISTING VISUAL CHARACTER OR QUALITY OF THE SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS?

Less than Significant Impact. Phase I of the proposed project would construct a new walk-in crypt building adjacent to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. The exterior of the new crypt building would be designed to resemble the existing building exterior and a landscaped green screen would be artistically places along the south side of the proposed crypt, facing Marengo Street. Additional artwork would be placed along the north side of the crypt, facing the existing parking lot. Phase II of the proposed project would rehabilitate the existing mechanical and electrical systems and reconfigure the internal layout of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. The majority of these tenant improvements would not be visible from outside the building itself. Some work associated with the mechanical systems would be done on the roof of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building; however, the existing systems are

currently housed on the roof and no new structures would be constructed. Accordingly, impacts to the existing visual character and quality of the site would be less than significant.

d) CREATE A NEW SOURCE OF SUBSTANTIAL LIGHT OR GLARE, WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DAY OR NIGHTTIME VIEWS IN THE AREA?

No Impact. The crypt building component of the proposed project would be constructed and finished with similar materials to the existing buildings, and would not contain windows or other large sources of glare. Additionally, no new outdoor lighting would be installed as part of the this phase. Phase II of the proposed project would primarily involve interior upgrades to the electrical and mechanical systems; however, outdoor security lighting would be installed as part of the electrical system updates. Illumination from the security lighting would be minimal and land uses surrounding the project site are primarily industrial and commercial, with no residential sensitive receptors located adjacent to the project area. Accordingly, no impacts related to an increase on light or glare would occur as a result of the proposed project.

e) CREATE A NEW SOURCE OF SUBSTANTIAL SHADE OR SHADOW THAT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DAYTIME VIEWS IN THE AREA?

No Impact. The proposed one-story crypt would be constructed at grade with the service level (2nd floor) of the existing four-story Coroner's Medical Examiner's building, and would be lower in height than the existing adjacent building. Additionally, the majority of the tenant improvements would occur within the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building and would not be visible from the surrounding area. As such, no impacts related to the creation of shade and shadow would occur as a result of the proposed project.

4.2 AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agriculture resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) CONVERT PRIME FARMLAND, UNIQUE FARMLAND, OR FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (FARMLAND), AS SHOWN ON THE MAPS PREPARED PURSUANT TO THE FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY, TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USE?

No Impact. The proposed project site is currently owned by the County and occupied by existing Coroner and Medical Examiner facilities; no change in the land use would occur. Additionally, the proposed project site is located within an area designated by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection as Urban and Built-Up Land and no Farmland, Prime, Unique, or otherwise, is located on or near the site (Department of Conservation 2002). As such, no impacts to Farmland would occur as a result of the project.

b) CONFLICT WITH EXISTING ZONING FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, OR A WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT?

No Impact. The project site is zoned PF-1, Public Facilities (City of Los Angeles 2007). There are no agricultural designations associated with the site, nor are there Williamson Act contracts for the site. No impact would occur.

c) INVOLVE OTHER CHANGES IN THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT WHICH, DUE TO THEIR LOCATION OR NATURE, COULD RESULT IN CONVERSION OF FARMLAND, TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USE?

No Impact. As discussed, the site is not used for agriculture and no farmland exists within the vicinity of the site. The project would not convert farmland to agricultural use and no impacts would occur.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) CONFLICT WITH OR OBSTRUCT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPLICABLE AIR QUALITY PLAN?

Less than Significant Impact. The project site lies within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), which is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO),

ozone (O_3), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), inhalable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and lead (Pb). The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either "attainment" or "non-attainment" areas for each criteria pollutant based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved or not. Attainment relative to the State standards is determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The project site is located in the Los Angeles County portion of the Basin. Los Angeles County is designated as a federal and state non-attainment area for O_3, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10}; and an attainment area for CO, SO_2, NO_2, and Pb (Table 4.3-1).

TABLE 4.3-1 ATTAINMENT STATUS FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PORTION OF THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN

Pollutant	Attainment Status	
	Federal	State
O_3 – 1-Hour	--[1]	Non-attainment Extreme
O_3 – 8-hour	Non-attainment Severe	
PM_{10}	Non-attainment Serious	Non-attainment
$PM_{2.5}$	Non-attainment	Non-attainment
CO	Attainment/Maintenance[2]	Attainment
NO_2	Attainment	Attainment
SO_2	Attainment	Attainment
Pb	Attainment	Attainment

Sources: USEPA 2006; CARB 2006
1- Repealed by law in June 2005.
2- Redesignation to Attainment was effective in June 2007.

The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the AQMP. No land uses are proposed that are different than those anticipated for the property in long range planning. Standards set by the SCAQMD, CARB, and Federal agencies relating to the project would be required and incorporated at applicable design and approval stages. Specific air quality impacts related to criteria pollutants are discussed below. Impacts related to obstructing implementation of air quality plans would be less than significant for the proposed project.

b) VIOLATE ANY AIR QUALITY STANDARD OR CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO AN EXISTING OR PROJECTED AIR QUALITY VIOLATION?

Less than Significant Impact. Los Angeles County is designated as a Federal and State non-attainment area for O_3, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. The SCAQMD, the regional agency that regulates stationary sources, maintains an extensive air quality monitoring network to measure criteria pollutant concentrations throughout the Basin.

State and Federal agencies have set ambient air quality standards for various pollutants. Both CAAQS and NAAQS have been established to protect the public health and welfare. The SCAQMD has prepared the CEQA Air Quality Handbook to provide guidance to those who analyze the air quality impacts of proposed projects. Based on Section 182(e) of the Federal Clean Air Act, the SCAQMD has set CEQA significance thresholds for potential air quality impacts as shown in Table 4.3-2.

TABLE 4.3-2 SCAQMD AIR QUALITY SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

Mass Daily Thresholds[a]		
Pollutant	Construction	Operation
NO_X	100 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
VOC	75 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
$PM_{2.5}$	55 lbs/day	55 lbs/day
PM_{10}	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
SO_X	150 lbs/day	150 lbs/day
CO	550 lbs/day	550 lbs/day
Lead	3 lbs/day	3 lbs/day
Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) and Odor Thresholds		
TACs (including carcinogens and non-carcinogens)	Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk ≥ 10 in 1 million Hazard Index ≥ 1.0 (project increment) Hazard Index ≥ 3.0 (facility-wide)	
Odor	Project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 402	
Ambient Air Quality for Criteria Pollutants		
NO_2 1-hour average annual average	SCAQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards: 0.25 ppm (State) 0.053 ppm (Federal)	
PM_{10} 24-hour average annual geometric average annual arithmetic mean	10.4 μg/m^3 (recommended for construction) [e] 2.5 μg/m^3 (operation) 1.0 μg/m^3 20 μg/m^3	
$PM_{2.5}$ 24-hour average	10.4 μg/m^3 (construction)[e] & 2.5 μg/m^3 (operation)	
Sulfate 24-hour average	25 μg/m^3	
CO 1-hour average 8-hour average	SCAQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards: 20 ppm (State) 9.0 ppm (State/Federal)	

Source: SCAQMD 2006
lbs/day = pounds per day; ppm = parts per million; μg/m^3 = microgram per cubic meter

MASS DAILY THRESHOLDS

Emissions for construction of the proposed project were quantified using the URBEMIS2007, a computer program used to estimate vehicle trips, emissions, and fuel use resulting from land use development projects (Rimpo and Associates 2007). URBEMIS computes emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG), NO_x, CO, SO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, and CO_2 (CO_2 emissions are addressed later in this document under the discussion of Global Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas (GHG), which begins on page 4-8). On projects of this type, SO_2 emissions would be negligible and are not included in the analysis below.

Excavation and grading activities associated with Phase I of the proposed project would generate fugitive dust including PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Operation of diesel-engine construction equipment on-site, hauling of exported and imported soils and materials to and from the site, and construction crew traffic would generate emissions of ROG, NO_x, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Estimated maximum daily construction-related mass emissions are shown in Table 4.3-3. The maximum emissions of NOx, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ would occur during the grading phase; the maximum emissions of ROG and CO would occur during the final month of Phase I construction when building, paving, and painting could all occur concurrently.

TABLE 4.3-3 ESTIMATED MAXIMUM DAILY CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS

	Maximum Daily Emissions (lbs/day)				
	ROG	NO_x	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Phase I Construction	9	28	16	3	2
SCAQMD Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**55**
Exceeds SCAQMD Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No
Source: URBEMIS ver. 9.2 (Rimpo and Associates 2007)					

As shown in Table 4.3-3, construction emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds for the project. In addition, construction emissions would be short-term and limited only to the time period when construction activity is taking place. As such, construction related emissions would be less than significant for Phase I of the proposed project. Activities associated with Phase II of the project would require the use of little or no diesel engine powered construction equipment; maximum daily emissions of any of the criteria pollutants would be less than 6 pounds per day and impacts to air quality would be negligible.

Operation of the proposed project would not result in an increase to the number of staff commuting to the site and no new uses would occur following implementation of the project. Emissions from increased building use of natural gas and landscape maintenance would be less than 2 pounds per day of any of the criteria pollutants. Accordingly, additional operation-related emissions resulting from the project would be negligible and no impacts to air quality would occur.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE / GREENHOUSE GAS

Background Information

Global climate change refers to variances in Earth's meteorological conditions, which are measured by wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. The term climate change is often used interchangeably with the term global warming, but according to the National Academy of Sciences, "the phrase 'climate change' is growing in preferred use to 'global warming' because it helps convey that there are other changes in addition to rising temperatures." Climate change is any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). The Earth's climate has changed many times during the planet's history, with events ranging from ice ages to long periods of warmth. Historically, natural factors such as volcanic eruptions, changes in the Earth's orbit, and the amount of energy released from the Sun have affected the Earth's climate. Various gases in the earth's atmosphere, classified as atmospheric GHG, play a critical role in determining the earth's surface temperature. Solar radiation enters the earth's atmosphere from space. A portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth's surface, and a smaller portion of this radiation is reflected back toward space. The earth emits this radiation, which was initially absorbed, back to space, but the properties of the radiation have changed from high-frequency solar radiation to lower frequency infrared radiation. The frequencies at which bodies emit radiation are proportional to temperature. The earth has a much lower temperature than the sun; therefore, the earth emits lower frequency radiation. Most solar radiation passes through GHGs; however, infrared radiation is absorbed by these gases. As a result, radiation that otherwise would have escaped back into space is instead "trapped," resulting in a warming of the atmosphere. This phenomenon, known as the Greenhouse Effect, is responsible for maintaining a habitable climate on Earth. Without the Greenhouse Effect, Earth would not support life as we know it. Prominent GHGs contributing to the Greenhouse Effect are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), ozone, nitrous oxide (N_2O), water vapor, hydrofluorocarbons, chlorofluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

Beginning late in the 18th century, human activities associated with the Industrial Revolution have also changed the composition of the atmosphere. CO_2 is the most important anthropogenic GHG. The global atmospheric concentration of CO_2 has increased from a pre-industrial (roughly 1750) value of about 280 parts per million (ppm) to 379 ppm in 2005, primarily due to fossil fuel use with land use change providing a significant but smaller contribution. The annual rate of growth in CO_2 emissions continues to increase, with a larger annual CO_2 concentration growth rate during the last 10 years (1995-2005 average: 1.9 ppm per year increase), than since the beginning of continuous direct measurements in 1960.

Like CO_2, the global atmospheric concentration of methane (CH_4) in 2005 exceeded its pre-industrial value. CH_4 growth rates have declined since the early 1990s with total emissions being nearly constant during this period. The observed increase in CH_4 concentration is very likely (at

least 90 percent likelihood) due to anthropogenic activities, primarily agriculture and fossil fuel use. The atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 and CH_4 in 2005 greatly exceed the natural range over the last 650,000 years. The global concentration of nitrous oxide (N_2O) in 2005 also exceeded the pre-industrial value. The growth rate in N_2O concentration has been approximately constant since 1980. More than a third of all N_2O emissions are anthropogenic and primarily due to agriculture.

Eleven of the last twelve years from 1995-2006 rank among the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature (since 1850). An increase in global surface temperature of .74°C (0.56°C to 0.92°C) occurred during the 100-year period from 1906-2005. Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors (CEC 2006a). The global scientific community has expressed very high confidence (i.e., at least 90 percent) that global climate change is anthropogenic (i.e., caused by humans) and that global warming will lead to adverse climate change effects around the globe (IPCC 2007).

State Legislation

The State of California has traditionally been a pioneer in efforts to reduce air pollution, dating back to 1963 when the California New Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board adopted the nation's first motor vehicle emission standards. Likewise, California has a long history of actions undertaken in response to the threat posed by climate change. Assembly Bill (AB) 1493, signed by California's governor in July 2002, requires passenger vehicles and light duty trucks to achieve maximum feasible reduction of GHG emissions by model year 2009. AB 1493 was enacted based on recognition that passenger cars are significant contributors to the State's GHG emissions. Under the federal Clean Air Act, California is authorized to adopt motor vehicle standards stricter than federal requirements, such as those in AB 1493, if it receives a waiver from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. California applied for a waiver in December, 2005 that was denied by U.S. EPA in December, 2007. California filed a petition with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenging EPA's denial in January, 2008. California's waiver request has not been granted as of this writing.

On September 27, 2006, AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, was enacted by the State of California. The legislature stated that "global warming poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California." AB 32 caps California's GHG emissions at 1990 levels by 2020. AB 32 defines GHG emissions as all of the following gases: carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexaflouride. This bill represents the first enforceable Statewide program in the United States to cap all GHG emissions from major industries and include penalties for non-compliance. While acknowledging that national and

international actions will be necessary to fully address the issue of global warming, AB 32 lays out a program to inventory and reduce GHG emissions in California and from power generation facilities located outside the State that serve California residents and businesses.

CARB has been tasked to establish a "scoping" plan by January 1, 2009 for achieving reductions in GHG emissions, and regulations by January 1, 2011 for reducing GHG emissions to achieve the emissions cap by 2020, which rules would take effect no later than 2012. In designing emission reduction measures, CARB must aim to minimize costs, maximize benefits, improve and modernize California's energy infrastructure, maintain electric system reliability, maximize additional environmental and economic benefits for California, and complement the State's ongoing efforts to improve air quality. AB 32 also directs CARB to "recommend a de minimis threshold of greenhouse gas emissions below which emissions reduction requirements will not apply" by January 1, 2009 (HSC §38561(e)).

California Senate Bill (SB) 97, passed in August 2007, is designed to work in conjunction with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and AB 32. CEQA requires the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to prepare and develop guidelines for the implementation of CEQA by public agencies. SB 97 requires OPR by July 1, 2009 to prepare, develop, and transmit to the State Resources Agency its proposed guidelines for the feasible mitigation of GHG emissions, as required by CEQA, including, but not limited to, effects associated with transportation or energy consumption. The Resources Agency is required to certify and adopt the guidelines by January 1, 2010, and OPR is required to periodically update the guidelines to incorporate new information or criteria established by the CARB pursuant to AB 32. SB 97 would apply to any proposed or draft environmental impact report, negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or other document prepared under CEQA that has not been certified or adopted by the CEQA lead agency as of the effective date of the new guidelines, with certain exemptions. OPR released a technical advisory in June 2008, CEQA and Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change through California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review, which provides interim informal guidance regarding steps lead agencies should take to address climate change in their CEQA documents prior to the certification and adoption of CEQA guidelines for climate change under SB 97.

County Energy and Environmental Policy

In addition to the State regulations, on January 16, 2007, the County of Los Angeles adopted the Energy and Environmental Policy (Policy) as part of the County's efforts to help conserve natural resources and protect the environment. The goal of the Policy is to provide guidelines for the development, implementation, and enhancement of energy conservation and environmental programs. The Policy established an Energy and Environmental Team to coordinate the efforts of various County departments, establish a program to integrate sustainable technologies into its Capital Project Program, reduce energy consumption in County facilities by 20 percent by the

year 2015, and commit to join the California Climate Action Registry to assist the County in establishing goals for reduction of GHGs. The County achieved the latter goal by joining the California Climate Action Registry in 2007. The Policy includes four program areas in order to promote "green" design and operation of County facilities and reduce the County's "environmental footprint". The Policy discusses goals and initiatives for each program area, as follows:

Energy and Water Efficiency

- Implementing and monitoring energy and water conservation practices;
- Implementing energy and water efficiency projects; and
- Enhancing employee energy and water conservation awareness through education and promotions;

Environmental Stewardship

- Investigating requirements and preferences for environmentally friendly packaging, greater emphasis on recycled products, and minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances, etc.;
- Placing an emphasis on recycling and landfill volume reduction within County buildings;
- Investigating the use of environmentally friendly products; and
- Supporting environmental initiatives through the investigation of existing resource utilization.

Public Outreach and Education

- Implementing a program which provides County residents with energy related information, including energy and water conservation practices, utility rates and rate changes, rotating power outage information, emergency power outage information, and energy efficiency incentives; and
- Seeking collaboration with local governments, public agencies, and County affiliates to strengthen regional, centralized energy and environmental management resources and identify and develop opportunities for information and cost sharing in energy management and environmental activities.

Sustainable Design

- Enhancing building sustainability through the integration of green, sustainable principles into the planning, design, and construction of County capital projects which:
- Complement the functional objectives of the project;
- Extend the life cycle/useful life of buildings and sites;
- Optimize energy and water use efficiency;

- Improve indoor environmental quality and provide healthy work environments;
- Reduce ongoing building maintenance requirements; and
- Encourage use and reuse of environmentally friendly materials and resources.
- Establishing a management approach that instills and reinforces the integration of sustainable design principles into the core competency skill set of the County's planner, architects, engineers, and project managers; and
- Establishing practical performance measures to determine the level of sustainability achieved relative to the objectives targeted for the individual project and overall capital program.

Since the adoption of the Policy, the County has taken steps to ensure compliance with the goals of the Policy and ultimately, AB 32. In order to meet the 20 percent reduction of energy consumption goal, the County has implemented energy efficient projects in County facilities, specifically retrofitting or replacing building lighting systems and air conditioning equipment. Accordingly, annual electrical consumption in County facilities was reduced by 2.31 percent in 2007 and 3.09 percent in 2008; annual gas consumption was reduced by 1.17 percent in 2007 and 1.83 percent in 2008 (LACDPW 2008). Additionally, the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force accomplished the following milestones towards their goal of recommending and implementing the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes to meet the demands of an additional 1.3 million people:

- Established membership in the Water Reuse Association and the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Advisory Committee;
- Secured adoption of an ordinance by the Board naming the Director of Public Works or his designee the lead County official on matters related to recycled water.
- Assisted County Waterworks Districts in drafting revised policies and procedures to require its customers to use recycled water for non-potable, outdoor use.
- Participated in efforts to develop recycled water supplies within the Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County.
- Prepared a draft 5 signature letter from the Board to the Governor requesting that Caltrans be directed to prepare a master plan for converting its irrigation systems to recycled water.
- Established effective working relationships with all recycled water providers within Los Angeles County.
- Assisted the Department of Parks and Recreation in beginning the capital planning process for converting all of their facilities to recycled water for irrigation purposes by the year 2020.
- Facilitated discussions between the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) to enable delivery of recycled water to DPR facilities in WBMWD service area.
- Initiated development of a County-wide strategic plan in cooperation with the Chief Executive Office for converting all County facilities to recycled water for irrigation.

- Facilitated an agreement between the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the West Basin MWD, the Water Replenishment District, and Public Works to conduct a study of the Department's Modified Fouling Index standard for water delivered to the seawater barriers to potentially increase the amount of recycled water used for barrier injection.
- Developed County positions on bills pending in the California Assembly or Senate, including AB 1481, SB 201, and AB 2270.

The County has also developed/adopted and implemented tools and policies to support the reduction of GHG emissions, promote "green" development, and provide employees and the public with information and opportunities to reduce their energy consumption. These tools and policies include: the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool which identifies and certifies environmentally preferable electronic equipment; the proposed "green building" ordinance, which will lead to all new private development within the unincorporated areas of the County being certified under Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or equivalent standards, and the proposed incorporation of Low Impact Design Standards and draught tolerant landscaping; County-sponsored recycling programs, which have distributed 40,000 desk sized paper recycling bins to County employees and require that all County departments purchase paper with a minimum 30 percent recycled content; the Vehicle Purchasing Services Program which provides incentives for County employees, retirees, family members, and contractors/sub-contractors to purchase alternate fuel vehicles; and the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program which aims to reduce the consumption and disposal of plastic carryout bags in County unincorporated areas and partner cities (LACDPW 2008).

A quantitative analysis of the proposed project's GHG-related impacts is provided in Section 4.17(b). As discussed in Section 4.17(b), the potential impacts related to GHG emissions would be less than significant for the proposed project.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the proposed project would result in temporary increases in criteria pollutants during construction and negligible increases in criteria pollutants during operation. During construction, air quality impacts would be less than SCAQMD thresholds for nonattainment pollutants and no long-term emissions would occur. Accordingly, net increases of non-attainment criteria pollutants would not be considerable and the impact would be less than significant.

d) EXPOSE SENSITIVE RECEPTORS TO SUBSTANTIAL POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS?

Less than Significant Impact. The SCAQMD has promulgated methodology and standards for calculation of impacts based on Localized Significance Thresholds (LST) (SCAQMD 2003). An LST analysis is a localized air dispersion modeling analysis used to predict maximum concentration levels of NO_2, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions generated from a project site that could reach nearby sensitive receptors. Air dispersion modeling is a function of multiple variables, including local-specific meteorological conditions, site-specific air pollutant emission levels, and sensitive receptor distances to the modeling site.

In order to minimize efforts for detailed dispersion modeling, SCAQMD developed screening (lookup) tables to assist lead agencies with a simple tool for evaluating impacts from small typical projects. The use of LST lookup tables is limited to construction projects that are five acres or smaller in size.

The closest sensitive receptors to the crypt construction site are the homes on Lord Street, south of the site, at a distance of approximately 650 feet. The project construction site has an area of less than one acre. Table 4.3-4 shows the addition-related emissions data and threshold values for each pollutant. As shown in Table 4.3-4, all emissions values would be less than the LST thresholds. No mitigation measures would be required.

TABLE 4.3-4 LOCAL EMISSIONS ANALYSIS

Pollutant	Maximum Daily Emissions[1] lbs/day	LST Threshold[2] lbs/day	Exceed Threshold?
Construction[3]			
NOx	28.0	159/100[3]	No
CO	13.7	1947/550[3]	No
PM_{10}	1.8	45	No
$PM_{2.5}$	1.7	24	No

[1] Emissions are limited to those generated on site; see URBEMIS data sheets for LST analysis.
[2] LST thresholds from SCAQMD 2005 and 2006b for 1 acre and 200 meter source-receptor distance and Table 4.3-2.
[3] LST thresholds for NOx and CO are higher than SCAQMD mass emissions thresholds; therefore the lower numbers, which are the mass emissions thresholds, apply.

e) CREATE OBJECTIONABLE ODORS AFFECTING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE?

Less than Significant Impact. Minor sources of odors associated with the project would be associated with the Phase I construction activities. The predominant source of power for construction equipment is diesel engines. Exhaust odors from diesel engines may be considered offensive to some individuals. However, because odors would be temporary and would disperse rapidly with distance from the source, construction-generated odors would not result in the frequent exposure of onsite receptors to objectionable odorous emissions. Additionally, operational odors such as trash generation and storage of biohazardous materials would not be significant as the project would comply with Federal, State, and local regulations. As a result, short-term construction-related odors would be considered less than significant for the proposed project.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH HABITAT MODIFICATIONS, ON ANY SPECIES IDENTIFIED AS A CANDIDATE, SENSITIVE, OR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES IN LOCAL OR REGIONAL PLANS, POLICIES, OR REGULATIONS, OR BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE?

Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated. The Project site is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Los Angeles 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Based on a review of information from the CDFG, Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) RareFind2 data for these quadrangles, there are eight species of plants with Federal and State-listed status, and/or California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Listed status, five species of wildlife that are federally- or State-listed or have other special status, and one sensitive terrestrial natural community or habitat type that is reported from historical information for the Los Angeles quadrangle as shown on Table 4.4-1.

TABLE 4.4-1 FEDERALLY AND STATE-LISTED SPECIES AND OTHER SENSITIVE OR SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES RECORDED IN HISTORICAL DATA FOR THE USGS LOS ANGELES 7.5-MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	CNPS	Habitat
Plant Species				
Aster greatae	Greata's aster	–	List 1B.3	Absent
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii*	Davidson's saltscale	–	List 1B.2	Absent
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa lily	–	List 1B.2	Absent
Helianthus nuttallii ssp. *parishii*	Los Angeles sunflower	–	List 1A	Absent
Horkelia cuneata ssp. *puberula*	mesa horkelia	–	List 1B.1	Absent
Linanthus orcuttii	Orcutt's linanthus	–	List 1B.1	Absent
Navarretia prostrata	prostrate navarretia	–	List 1B.1	Absent
Ribes divaricatum var. *parishii*	Parish's gooseberry	–	List 1B.1	Absent
Reptile Species				
Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii	coast horned lizard	CSC	–	Absent
Avian Species				
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	CSC	–	Absent
Empidonax traillii extimus	southwestern willow flycatcher	FE, SE	–	Absent
Mammal Species				
Taxidea taxus	American badger	CSC	–	Absent
Nyctinomops macrotis	big free-tailed bat	CSC	–	Absent
Sensitive Vegetation Communities				
--	Walnut Forest	State sensitive	–	Absent

Sources: USFWS (1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998), CNDDB (2006), and CNPS (2006)
FE: Federally listed as Endangered
FT: Federally listed as Threatened
FC: Federal Candidate species (former Category 1 candidate species) where enough data are on file to support listing
FS: USDA Forest Service "Sensitive Species" recovery program (in cooperation with CDFG and USFWS) identifies and manages species whose populations are declining
SE: State-listed as Endangered
CSC: California Special Concern species by CDFG
List 1B: Plants considered by the CNPS to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2: Plants considered by the CNPS to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere

While these species have previously been documented in the vicinity of the project area, none of these species are reported on the project site. Samples were collected from the site and a qualified botanist was obtained to determine the species present at the site. Plant species observed onsite are shown in Table 4.4-2. Wildlife species observed are shown in Table 4.4-3. These plants and wildlife species were observed in the landscape vegetation west of the Corner's Medical Examiner's building.

TABLE 4.4-2 PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED AT THE PROJECT SITE

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm	*Cupaniaopsis anacardioides*	Carrotwood
Pinus --	Unidentified Pine	*Hedera helix*	English Ivy

TABLE 4.4-3 WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED AT THE PROJECT SITE

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow	*Mimus polyglottos*	northern mockingbird

The crypt component of the proposed project would permanently remove approximately 0.1 acre of English Ivy (*Hedera helix)*, three unidentified pine trees (*Pinus* --), two Chinese Elm trees (*Ulmus parvifolia*), and two Carrotwood trees (*Cupaniaopsis anacardioides*). None of these plant species are federally or State protected species or sensitive habitats. Although none of the plant and landscape trees are federally or State protected species, if clearing, grading, and vegetation removal activities for the project occur during breeding bird season (generally March 1-August 31, as early as February 1 for raptors), the proposed project would have the potential to impact nesting birds. To avoid potential impacts to native nesting birds that may be present on the site, mitigation measure BIO-1 is provided. With incorporation of this mitigation measure into the proposed project, potentially significant effects would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Should clearing, grading, or tree removal activities occur during the breeding season (generally March 1-August 31, as early as February 1 for raptors) for migratory non-game native bird species, a pre-construction presence/absence survey shall be performed to detect any protected native birds in the trees to be removed and other suitable nesting habitat within 300 feet of the construction work area (500 feet for raptors). The survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of clearance/construction work. If a protected native bird is found or an active nest is located, all clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (within 500 feet for raptor nests) shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Construction limits shall be established in the field with flagging and stakes or construction fencing to avoid a nest and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. The results of this measure shall be recorded to document compliance with applicable State and Federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.

b) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON ANY RIPARIAN HABITAT OR OTHER SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED IN LOCAL OR REGIONAL PLANS, POLICIES, REGULATIONS, OR BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE?

No Impact. The CNDDB search and site visit did not reveal the recorded current and historic presence of sensitive plant communities on the project site. No riparian habitat exists onsite. As such, no impacts to riparian habitats or sensitive natural communities would occur as a result of the proposed project.

c) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON FEDERALLY PROTECTED WETLANDS AS DEFINED BY SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MARSH, VERNAL POOL, COASTAL, ETC.) THROUGH DIRECT REMOVAL, FILLING, HYDROLOGICAL INTERRUPTION, OR OTHER MEANS?

No impact. The project site is located in an urban, developed area of downtown Los Angeles; no federally protected wetlands exist on or in the vicinity of the site. Accordingly, no impacts to wetlands would occur as a result of the proposed project.

d) INTERFERE SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE MOVEMENT OF ANY NATIVE RESIDENT OR MIGRATORY FISH OR WILDLIFE SPECIES OR WITH ESTABLISHED NATIVE RESIDENT OR MIGRATORY WILDLIFE CORRIDORS, OR IMPEDE THE USE OF NATIVE WILDLIFE NURSERY SITES?

No Impact. The project is not anticipated to interfere with movement or use of nurseries by any wildlife as no wildlife corridors exist onsite. As such, no impacts to the movement of fish and wildlife species would occur as a result of the proposed project.

e) CONFLICT WITH ANY LOCAL POLICIES OR ORDINANCES PROTECTING BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS A TREE PRESERVATION POLICY OR ORDINANCE?

No Impact. As discussed, the crypt building component of the proposed project would permanently remove approximately 0.1 acre of English Ivy (*Hedera helix)*, three Canary pine trees (*Pinus canariensis*), two Chinese Elm trees (*Ulmus parvifolia*), and two Carrotwood trees (*Cupaniaopsis anacardioides*). However, none of these plant species are protected by any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Accordingly, no impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

f) Conflict with the provision of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The new cold storage crypt building would result in the permanent loss of approximately 0.1 acre of English Ivy adjacent to the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. However, as discussed, English Ivy is considered to be an invasive species and is not protected by conservation plans. The project would also remove seven landscape trees; however, none of these trees are protected species or habitats. As such, no impacts related to habitat conservation plans would occur following implementation of the proposed project.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact. Archival research for this project was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), housed at California State University, Fullerton. The archival research focused on historic resources located adjacent the project area and involved the review of historic files, including an examination of historic maps and historic site inventories.

The archival research indicated that the Los Angeles County General Hospital Campus (LACGHC) houses ten National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligible properties. All ten properties are within ¼ to ½ mile of the proposed project. The National Register eligible properties associated with LACGHC, and their respective construction dates, are as follows: 1) Los Angeles County General Hospital—Acute Unit (1933); 2) Payroll Building (1933); 3) Quality Assurance Building (1933); 4) Entrance Forecourt (1933); 5) Configuration of North State Street; 6) Marengo Street and Zonal Avenue Gateways (1933); 7) Vehicular/Pedestrian Tunnel/Tramway (1933); 8) Pharmacy Building (1917); 9) Old Administration Building (1910); and 10) the New Pediatric Outpatient Clinic (no date).

Of the ten buildings associated with LACGHC, one, the Los Angeles County Hospital Old Administration Building (19-167090), which currently serves as the administrative headquarters for the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner, is in close proximity to the proposed project area. Although in close proximity, the Old Administration Building is separated from the project area physically and visually by the 1970s Coroner's/Medical Examiner's Building. The proposed project would not include alterations of any kind to the Old Administration Building. Accordingly, no impacts to historic resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

b) CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE PURSUANT TO §15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact after Mitigation Incorporated. A review of available archaeological literature, including site records, survey reports, and relevant historical maps was conducted at the SCCIC. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps research was also undertaken for this project. No archaeological survey of the site was conducted as part of this analysis.

The archival research indicated that no prehistoric and three historic archaeological sites were previously recorded within a ½-mile radius of the project area. One of the sites (CA-LAN-3686) is a scatter of historic refuse and includes domestic, commercial and industrial debris. The second site (CA-LAN-3473) consists of two un-related features, a privy and a kiln, and a surface collection of historic refuse. The third site is the Southern Pacific Railroad (19-186112), which travels roughly east-west and crosses the northern half of the ½-mile study area. No archaeological resources have been recorded with the proposed project area itself. Because no archaeological resources have been previously recorded within the project area itself and since the three previously recorded archaeological sites are over 1,500 feet from the project area, no impacts to known archaeological resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. The absence of known archaeological resources in the proposed project area, however, does not preclude the possibility that unknown surface, subsurface or otherwise obscured archaeological resources may be present.

Prehistoric occupation of the project vicinity dates back thousands of years (McCawley 1996). The Native American group known as the Gabrielino occupied the Los Angeles Basin, particularly watersheds of the Los Angeles River. Evidence of this settlement and subsistence pattern is found throughout Los Angeles County. Archival research indicates historic use of the proposed project area extends back to at least 125 years ago. Historic topographic maps indicate a similar topography was present in this location as early as 1928. Archival research revealed that the project area has been in continuous use as a medical facility since 1878 when the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors purchased the land in order to build a county hospital (Mellon & Associates 1999). Wooden buildings were quickly constructed to serve as the County's hospital and Poor Farm. The first construction of non-wooden buildings began in 1897 (Mellon & Associates 1999).

Because the proposed project area lies within the area inhabited by the prehistoric Gabrielino, has experienced historic use for at least 125 years, lies within an area known to contain National Register eligible properties, and because it is likely that the historic development of the site resulted in little or no ground disturbance, potential for unknown prehistoric and historic archaeological resources exists. Although a geotechnical report (Kleinfelder 2007) prepared for this project indicates the possible presence of artificial fill material in three borings, the horizontal extent of the fill is undetermined, as is the age of the fill. For these reasons, the proposed project

would potentially cause impacts to unknown archaeological resources. However, with the implementation of CUL-1, impacts would be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1. All ground disturbing activities in connection with the proposed project shall be monitored by a qualified archaeological monitor. In the event archaeological materials are encountered during ground disturbing activities, the construction contractor shall cease activity in the affected are until the discovery is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the provisions of CEQA Section 15064.5. The archaeologist shall complete any requirements for the mitigation of adverse effects on any resources determined to be significant and implement appropriate treatment measures.

c) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DESTROY A UNIQUE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE OR SITE OF UNIQUE GEOLOGIC FEATURE?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project area falls into an area characterized by alluvial fan deposits from the late to middle Pleistocene. The soil is described as "slightly to moderately consolidated silt, sand and gravel deposits on alluvial fans; surfaces dissected in varying degrees; surfaces can show moderate to well-developed pedogenic soils" (Yerkes and Campbell 2005). The project area is not within an area known to contain paleontological resources, according to the U.S Geological Survey (Yerkes and Campbell 2005). Accordingly, the proposed project is not expected to destroy any paleontological resources or alter any unique geological features.

d) DISTURB ANY HUMAN REMAINS, INCLUDING THOSE INTERRED OUTSIDE OF FORMAL CEMETERIES?

Less Than Significant Impact after Mitigation Incorporated. No formal cemeteries or other places of human interment are known to exist in the proposed project area. However, the project area has been used as a hospital and medical facility for over 125 years. The procedure of disposing of the dead, amputated limbs and medical waste from the hospital's early period of use is unknown. Therefore, the potential to disturb human remains may exist. Impacts to human remains will be reduced to a less than significant impact with the implementation of mitigation measure CUL-2.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2. All ground disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. In the event human remains are discovered during earthmoving activities, the construction contractor shall cease activity in the area of the discovery and the Los Angeles County Coroner shall be contacted to assess the find in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. No work will resume in the discovery area until appropriate treatment measure have been implemented.

4.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES TO POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS, INCLUDING THE RISK OF LOSS, INJURY, OR DEATH INVOLVING:

i) RUPTURE OF A KNOWN EARTHQUAKE FAULT, AS DELINEATED ON THE MOST RECENT ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING MAP ISSUED BY THE STATE GEOLOGIST FOR THE AREA OR BASED ON OTHER SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF A KNOWN FAULT? REFER TO DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY SPECIAL PUBLICATION 42.

No Impact. A site specific Geotechnical Investigation was conducted for the project by Kleinfelder. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo (AP) Earthquake Fault Zone (CGS 1999b) and no known faults underlie the site (Kleinfelder 2007b). The closest AP fault zone to the project site is the Raymond fault zone, located approximately 2 miles northeast of the project site near South Pasadena. Accordingly, impacts associated with surface rupture are not anticipated for the proposed project.

ii) STRONG SEISMIC GROUND SHAKING?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is located within the seismically active southern California region, which is influenced by several fault systems that are considered to be active or potentially active. The State of California defines an active fault as one which has exhibited surface displacement within the Holocene time (approximately the last 11,000 years, while a potentially active fault is one that has exhibited surface displacement within the Pleistocene time (between 11,000 and 1.6 million years ago). In addition, other active faults which do not exhibit surface displacement may also be located at depth within the region. A search of known active and potentially active faults within a 62-mile radius was conducted. The search yielded 46 known faults. The project site is located within the Near-Source Seismic Zone for the Hollywood Fault (Kleinfelder 2007b). As such, it is anticipated that the project site will periodically experience seismically-induced ground shaking.

Seismic hazards from groundshaking are typical for many areas of Southern California and the potential for seismic activity would not be greater for the project site than for much of the Los Angeles area. Construction of the crypt would be conducted in conformance with all applicable design and building code standards, including the elastic response spectrum as defined by Section 1631.2 of the 2001 California Building Code. The project would also adhere to the Near-Source seismic coefficients established in the Geotechnical Investigation for the Hollywood Fault and presented in Table 4.6-1 below.

TABLE 4.6-1 NEAR SOURCE SEISMIC COEFFICIENTS

Design Fault	Hollywood
Fault Type	B
Seismic Zone	4
Soil Profile Factor	S_D
Near-Source Distance	6.7 km
Na	1.0
Nv	1.13
Ca	0.44
Cv	0.63

Additional tenant improvements proposed as part of the project would not increase the exposure of people or structures to risks associated with seismic hazards. Accordingly, although the area would continue to be prone to seismic ground shaking, impacts related to risks associated with strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant for the proposed project.

III) SEISMIC-RELATED GROUND FAILURE, INCLUDING LIQUEFACTION?

No Impact. Liquefaction typically occurs when near-surface (usually upper 50 feet) saturated, clean, fine-grained loose sands, coupled with a shallow groundwater table, are subject to intense ground shaking. The site is not located within a liquefaction hazard zone (CGS 1999). Additionally, the existing hillside would be excavated and backfill would be properly compacted prior to construction of the proposed site retaining walls and crypt building. The historical high groundwater is reported to be greater than 20 feet below ground surface and based on the density of the subsurface material, the potential for liquefaction to occur at the site is considered to be low (Kleinfelder 2007b). Additional tenant improvements would occur within the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's building and would not increase the exposure of people or structures to liquefaction hazards. Accordingly, no impacts related to liquefaction would occur as a result of the proposed project.

IV) LANDSLIDES?

No Impact. The project site is not located within an area designated as a landslide hazard zone (CGS 1999). In addition, the project site is located within a relatively flat and previously developed area (Kleinfelder 2007b). As such, impacts related to landslides are not anticipated for the proposed project.

b) RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL SOIL EROSION OR THE LOSS OF TOPSOIL?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction of the crypt component of the proposed project would involve excavation and grading of a 7,500 square-foot area of an existing hillside. Loose sediment from the excavation as well as soil stockpiled onsite would be exposed to wind and rain, which can lead to erosion. Because the proposed project footprint is less than one acre, the

project would not be required to develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. However, the County has implemented an internal Stormwater Quality Management Program (SQMP), which is designed to comply with the requirements of the NPDES permit and includes measures for sediment control to be implemented by all projects, including those under one acre. The project would be required to adhere to the requirements of the SQMP, and the contractor would be required to implement temporary best management practices (BMPs) during construction, which would limit the exposure of soil to wind and water. In addition, if construction activities occur during the rainy season (defined as between October 15th through April 15th), the project would be required to prepare a Wet Weather Erosion Control Plan (WWECP). The WWECP would include additional BMPs designed to prevent stormwater impacts resulting freom erosion and sediments. Accordingly, impacts related to erosion and loss of topsoil would be less than significant for the proposed project.

c) Be located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Less than Significant Impact After Mitigation Incorporated. The project site is not located in an area susceptible to seismically induced slope instability; however, the Geotechnical Investigation conducted by Kleinfelder determined that undocumented fill comprises the soil beneath the project site to a depth of approximately 11 feet below ground surface (Kleinfelder 2007b). This soil is considered unsuitable for support of the crypt building and the existing hillside would be excavated in order to construct the proposed structure at-grade. Temporary excavations would comply with all applicable local, state, and federal safety regulations, including the current Occupational Safety and Health Association Excavation and Trench Standards and would be supported with bracing and/or shoring where required. Retaining walls would be constructed to ensure the stability of the hillside following construction. In addition, mitigation measures are provided below to further ensure soil stability during construction and operation of the proposed project. Following implementation of these measures, impacts associated with soil instability would be less than significant for the proposed project.

GEO-1: Design of the crypt shall adhere to all recommendations and parameters established in the Geotechnical Investigation Report (Kleinfelder 2007b) prepared for the project with respect to minimum foundation width, footings, sediment moisture content, setback distances, allowable bearing pressures, coefficients of friction, pipe bedding and pipe zone material particle size and compaction, excavation slope inclination, retaining wall requirements and lateral load, floor slab thickness and subgrade reaction, sidewalk scarification depth, subsurface moisture, concrete

curing, and drainage design. Final project plans and specifications shall be reviewed by a qualified geotechnical engineer to ensure compliance with recommended design parameters.

GEO-2: If undocumented fill is encountered at the design elevation following excavation, the fill shall be overexcavated to remove any disturbed or otherwise compressible materials and existing fill. Overexcavations should extend into native soils below the bottom of foundations and floor slabs. Excavated sediment shall be replaced with engineered fill.

GEO-3: All excavation and backfilling shall be conducted under the supervision of a representative of a qualified geotechnical engineer. Confirmation testing of soil shall be conducted during construction if deemed appropriate by the representative.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. An expansive index test was conducted as part of the Geotechnical Investigation prepared by Kleinfelder for the proposed site. The onsite sandy clay soils have a Uniform Building Code Expansion Index of 30, which is considered to be a low expansion potential. As such, no impacts associated with expansive soils are anticipated for the proposed project.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The proposed project would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. As such, no impacts would occur.

4.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than Significant Impact. Operation of the site would continue to involve the handling of biohazardous materials associated with medical facilities; however, no new uses would be introduced to the site. Staff would continue to adhere to proper procedures for handling, storage, and disposal of biohazardous materials. Additionally, the existing mechanical systems, including ventilation and heating/air conditioning, are out of date and do not adequately filter or ventilate

the biohazardous air from the clean air. The project would rehabilitate and update these systems, resulting in an improvement to the existing air quality for staff and visitors. The site is located within the City of Los Angeles' designated Methane Zone due to the presence of an abandoned oil well located 1,200 feet to the southeast 3,000 feet below ground surface (Kleinfelder 2007a). However, County standards and requirements for methane remediation and preventative design measures, which supercede those of the City, do not require methane abatement outside of a 200 foot radius from the oil well. As such, no methane remediation or preventative design measures would be required for the proposed crypt. Accordingly, impacts from the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazards associated with methane would be less than significant for the proposed project.

b) CREATE A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD TO THE PUBLIC OR THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH REASONABLY FORESEEABLE UPSET AND ACCIDENT CONDITIONS INVOLVING THE RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT?

Less than Significant Impact. An Environmental Data Records (EDR) Report was prepared for the project site which detailed the results of a search of available databases and lists of hazardous materials sites. The project site is listed on seven hazardous materials site databases; the CA FID UST, the HAZNET, the CLEANERS, the LOS ANGELES CO. HMS, the UST, the HIST UST, and the SWEEPS UST databases. The site is included on the CA FID UST, LOS ANGELES CO. HMS, UST, HIST UST, and SWEEPS UST databases due to a diesel underground storage tank (UST) located approximately 200 feet north of the proposed crypt location along a driveway adjacent to the north side of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building (see Figure 2-3). The records for the tank do not specify that it is an active tank containing leak detection devices. Because the site is not listed on the LUST or CORTESE databases, which detail leaking tanks or spills, it is not anticipated that inclusion of the site on these databases would present a hazard to the soil or groundwater at the site. The site is included on the HAZNET database, which tracks hazardous materials transfer and disposal manifests. The site is a disposer of unspecified organic and inorganic liquid and solid wastes. No indication of violations is included in the report and accordingly, the site's inclusion on this database is not anticipated to pose a hazard to the proposed project. Additionally, the site is included on the CLEANERS database for dry cleaning and laundry services, which would also pose no hazard to the project.

The EDR report also indicated 49 unique sites within a one-mile radius of the project site listed on 18 hazardous materials databases. The report also indicates that groundwater flow direction has been recorded to be in the southwest or westerly direction (EDR 2007). Accordingly, the sites which pose a potential hazard to the soil and groundwater beneath the project site are located to the northeast or east. These nine unique sites are detailed in Table 4.7-1.

TABLE 4.7-1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITE WITHIN ONE-MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

Site Name/Address	Database	Distance/Direction from Project	Status
Nu-Way Plating 1805 Sichel Street	CERCLIS	¼ - ½ mile NNE	Site cleaned in 1995; Removal only, no site assessment needed
LAC+USC Medical Center 1200 State Street	RCRAInfo LQG, RCRAInfo, SQG, CORTESE, LUST, CA FID, UST, HIST UST, SWEEPS UST	1/8 – ¼ ESE	SQG of hazardous waste associated with site activities with no violations reported; leak detected from onsite UST in 1988 affecting groundwater; site monitoring began in 2001; remediation plan submitted in 2003
LAC+USC Imaging Science Center 1744 Zonal Avenue	RCRAInfo SQG	1/8 – ¼ mile ENE	SQG of hazardous waste associated with site activities with no violations reported
Coast Counties Truck & Equipment 1358 Mission Road	CORTESE	1/8 – ¼ mile NE	No information available
Unocal #2579 2600 Main Street North	CORTESE, LUST	¼ - ½ mile NNE	UST leak affecting groundwater detected in 1989; affected soil removed and groundwater underwent monitoring; case closed
Moza Automotive Repair / Robin Oil Co. #29 / Texaco Co. 1201 North Mission Road	LUST, CA FID, HIST UST, SWEEPS UST	0 – 1/8 mile NE	Disposer of waste generated onsite; leaky gasoline tank discovered in 2002; affected soil removed; cleanup workplan submitted in 2002
A-1 Eastern Pickle Company 1832 Johnston Street	LUST	¼ - ½ NNE	Leaky tank discovered in 2005; tank removed in 2006; site undergoing preliminary site assessment
LAC+USC Medical Center Women's 1240 North Mission Road	CA FID, SWEEPS UST	1/8 – ¼ ESE	Active, open site containing 4 diesel tanks; no violations reported
Celotex Corporation 1633 San Pablo Street	ENVIROSTOR	½ - 1 ENE	Hazardous materials removed from site in 1985; no further action required

Source: EDR 2007

Notes:

RCRAInfo LQG: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Large Quantity Generators

RCRAInfo SQG: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Small Quantity Generators

UST: Underground Storage Tank

LUST: Leaking Underground Storage Tank

HIST UST: Historic Underground Storage Tank

ENVIROSTOR: Not abbreviated

SWEEPS UST: Statewide Environmental Evaluation and Planning System Underground Storage Tank

CERCLIS: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System

CA FID: California Facility Inventory Database

CORTESE: Not abbreviated

Although the crypt component would be primarily excavating into existing fill material above the reported groundwater table level, the fluctuation of groundwater levels over time, combined with the project's potential for overexcavation could potentially expose workers to soil and groundwater beneath the site which has been impacted by neighboring hazardous materials sites. As shown in Table 4.7-1, the Nu-Way Plating, LAC+USC Imaging Science Center, Unocal, LAC+USC Medical Center Women's, and the Celotex sites have either no violations reported, or known contamination has been sufficiently removed as to warrant no further action. Accordingly, these sites do not pose a hazard to the soil or groundwater beneath the project site. Contamination has been detected at the LAC+USC Medical Center, Moza Automotive Repair/Robin Oil Co./Texaco Co. sites and all are in various stages of site assessment and remediation. Because these sites are currently undergoing assessment and remediation, it is not anticipated that they pose a hazard to the soil or groundwater beneath the site. No information is available for the Coast Counties Truck & Equipment site; however, given the distance from the project site, it is not anticipated that the groundwater or soil beneath the project site has been impacted. Additionally, the County would provide the contractor with General Conditions Specifications, which would include standard protocol requirements for the identification and handling of any hazardous substance, including contaminated soil and groundwater, encountered during construction. The contractor would be required to adhere to the provisions of the specifications to ensure that no accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment would occur.

Construction activities would also require the use of hazardous substances, such as fuels, oils, and lubricants. Improper use or storage of these materials could result in leaks or spills and could contaminate runoff. However, as discussed under Section 4.6, the project would be required to adhere to the requirements of the SQMP, and the contractor would be required to implement temporary best management practices (BMPs) to prevent the migration of hazardous materials from the site in contaminated runoff during construction and require the immediate cleanup of any spills. Accordingly, impacts related to construction-related hazardous materials would be less than significant for the proposed project.

c) EMIT HAZARDOUS EMISSIONS OR HANDLE HAZARDOUS OR ACUTELY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, SUBSTANCES, OR WASTE WITHIN ONE-QUARTER MILE OF AN EXISTING OR PROPOSED SCHOOL?

Less than Significant Impact. The project site is located within the University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus. No additional schools are located within ¼-mile of the site. As discussed above, staff would adhere to proper procedure for the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and no new hazardous uses would be introduced to the site. Accordingly, impacts related to the emission of hazardous materials within ¼-mile of a school would be less than significant for the proposed project.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. The site is listed on seven hazardous materials databases; however, as discussed above, none of the databases the site is included on report any violations or known contamination. The site is listed on the databases for the presence of an active UST and activities associated with normal operation of the site. As such, impacts related to the site's inclusion on hazardous materials databases would be less than significant for the proposed project.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The project area is not located within and airport land use plan. The nearest public airport to the project site is the El Monte Airport located approximately 10.74 miles northeast (AirNav 2007). The proposed project would not create a safety hazard from proximity to a public airport and no impact would occur as a result.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The nearest private airstrip to the site is the Googyear Blimp Base Airport located approximately 14 miles southwest of the project site in Carson, California (AirNav 2007). No impacts related to private airstrip vicinity would occur as a result of the proposed project.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact. During construction of both phases of the proposed project, access to the Coroner site would be maintained in accordance with all emergency response and evacuation plans. Operation of the proposed project would not affect emergency access or evacuation. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

h) EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES TO A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF LOSS, INJURY OR DEATH INVOLVING WILDLAND FIRES, INCLUDING WHERE WILDLANDS ARE ADJACENT TO URBANIZED AREAS OR WHERE RESIDENCES ARE INTERMIXED WITH WILDLANDS?

No Impact. The project site is located within the highly developed urban area of Los Angeles. Additionally, the project is not located in or near to an area designated by the City of Los Angeles as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Department of City Planning 2007). Accordingly, no impacts from wildland fires would occur as a result of the proposed project.

4.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) VIOLATE ANY WATER QUALITY STANDARDS OR WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction activities such as clearing, excavating, and grading could expose loose sediment and soil to wind and rain resulting in localized erosion and sediment runoff. Additionally, construction activities would require the use of hazardous substances, such as fuels, oils, and lubricants. Improper use or storage of these materials could result in leaks or spills and could contaminate runoff, violating water quality standards. Because the proposed project would disturb less than one acre, the project would not be required to develop a SWPPP. However, as discussed under Section 4.6, the County has implemented an internal SQMP, which is designed to comply with the requirements of the NPDES permit and includes measures to reduce the amounts of pollutants in stormwater runoff from all projects, including those under one acre. The SQMP requires projects to implement temporary BMPs during construction in order to "control sediments, construction related pollutants (e.g. trash, paint, oil, concrete, drywall, etc.) and dust from stormwater discharges." The project would be required to adhere to all stormwater pollution control requirements through implementation of suggested BMPs in the SQMP. In the event construction activities require the disturbance of soil during the rainy season as defined as October 1 through April 15, a wet weather erosion control plan (WWECP) would also be developed. Following adherence to the County SQMP and the WWECP, impacts to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements would be less than significant during construction. Activities associated with operation of the site would not change as a result of the proposed project. No new uses would occur which would compromise water quality and impacts would be less than significant during operation of the project.

b) SUBSTANTIALLY DEPLETE GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES OR INTERFERE SUBSTANTIALLY WITH GROUNDWATER RECHARGE SUCH THAT THERE WOULD BE A NET DEFICIT IN AQUIFER VOLUME OR A LOWERING OF LOCAL GROUNDWATER TABLE LEVEL (E.G., THE PRODUCTION RATE OF PRE-EXISTING NEARBY WELLS WOULD DROP TO A LEVEL WHICH WOULD NOT SUPPORT EXISTING LAND USES OR PLANNED USES FOR WHICH PERMITS HAVE BEEN GRANTED)?

Less than Significant Impact. The project site overlies the Central Subbasin of the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles Groundwater Basin, which is recharged largely through surface and subsurface flows through Whittier Narrows and the San Gabriel Valley. Direct percolation is limited due to the basin's extensive paving and development (DWR 2004). The crypt component of the proposed project would replace an existing permeable hillside with an impermeable building and paved area, which would result in a minor decrease in natural percolation beneath the site. However, the project site is located in the highly developed urban area of downtown Los Angeles outside of any designated groundwater recharge areas and the proposed project would result in additional impervious surface area of less than 6,000 square-feet. This minor increase would not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge or deplete groundwater supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER THE EXISTING DRAINAGE PATTERN OF THE SITE OR AREA, INCLUDING THROUGH THE ALTERATION OF THE COURSE OF A STREAM OR RIVER, IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL EROSION OR SILTATION ON- OR OFF-SITE?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or river, nor would it affect the drainage pattern of the site. Construction activities during Phase I would result in temporary alterations of surface drainage characteristics at the project site. As discussed above, potential impacts related to erosion and siltation would be addressed through adherence to the provided mitigation and impacts would be less than significant. Operation of the proposed project would alter the existing layout of the site through the addition of the proposed crypt building; however, the overall drainage of the site would not change and stormwater would continue to drain to the existing stormdrain network. In addition, as discussed above, in the event construction activities require the disturbance of soil during the rainy season, a WWECP would also be developed to further ensure that the exposed sediment would not be eroded by rain. Erosion impacts would be less than significant for the proposed project.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or river, nor would it affect the drainage pattern of the site. Temporary construction alterations would be subject to the required mitigation. Operational changes to the site layout such as the crypt would not alter the drainage pattern of the site and the relatively minor increase in impervious surface area would not significantly increase the amount of surface runoff. Impacts would be less than significant for the proposed project.

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed would increase the impermeable surface area of the site by approximately less than 6,000 square-feet. This minor increase would not result in a substantial increase in the amount of runoff. Additionally, compliance with the County SQMP and the WWECP would ensure that contaminants do not enter the stormdrain system. As such, impacts related to stormwater runoff increases in volume or contaminant load would be less than significant for the proposed project.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction of the crypt component would include grading and other construction activities that could cause deterioration of water quality. However, compliance with the County SQMP and the WWECP ensure the incorporation of construction BMPs. Following construction, the current methods of site upkeep, such as the provision of trash receptacles and hazardous and biohazardous materials storage would continue to be employed. Compliance with these measures and standards would reduce potential impacts related to surface and groundwater water quality to less than significant for the proposed project.

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

No Impact. The project site is not located within the 100-year flood zone (Department of City Planning 1994). Additionally, the proposed project would not involve the construction of housing. Accordingly, no impacts related to the placement of housing in a flood hazard area would occur.

h) PLACE WITHIN A 100-YEAR FLOOD HAZARD AREA STRUCTURES, WHICH WOULD IMPEDE OR REDIRECT FLOOD FLOWS?

No Impact. As discussed above, the project site is not located within the 100-year flood plain (Department of City Planning 1994). Accordingly, the new crypt building would not impede flood flows and no impact would occur.

i) EXPOSE PEOPLE OR STRUCTURES TO A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF LOSS, INJURY OR DEATH INVOLVING FLOODING, INCLUDING FLOODING AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE OF A LEVEE OR DAM?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project site is located within the potential inundation area for the Hazard Reservoir (Department of City Planning 1994). Accordingly, the site would potentially be exposed to flood waters during an overflow of the reservoir. However, the proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner, and would not alter the existing use of the site or increase the potential for people or structures to be exposed to flood waters. Current site-specific emergency plans for flooding would continue to be applicable and impacts related to flooding would be less than significant for the proposed project.

j) INUNDATION BY SEICHE, TSUNAMI, OR MUDFLOW?

Less than Significant Impact. Although the project site is located within the inundation area of the Hazard Reservoir, seiche (wave-like oscillations of water in an enclosed basin caused by earthquakes, high winds or other atmospheric conditions) impacts are typically limited to areas immediately adjacent to the large body of water. The project site is located over ½-mile west of the reservoir with heavily developed areas in between which would impede seiche waters. The project site is located approximately 15 miles northeast of the Pacific Ocean and is not in an area designated as susceptible to tsunamis (Department of City Planning 1994). As discussed in Section 4. 6, the project area is not located within a landslide hazard area and is approximately 10 miles south of the San Gabriel foothills, the most likely location of debris flows, including mudflows. Accordingly, impacts associated with seiche, tsunami, and mudflow are not anticipated to be significant for the proposed project.

4.9 LAND USE AND PLANNING

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) PHYSICALLY DIVIDE AN ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. Construction and operation of the proposed project would occur entirely onsite. The project would not alter the existing use of the site and would not divide an established community. No impact would occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

b) CONFLICT WITH ANY APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN, POLICY, OR REGULATION OF AN AGENCY WITH JURISDICTION OVER THE PROJECT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE GENERAL PLAN, SPECIFIC PLAN, LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM, OR ZONING ORDINANCE) ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING OR MITIGATING AN ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT?

No Impact. The project site is owned and maintained by the County of Los Angeles. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. The site is designated as public facilities by the General Plan and the project would not alter the existing use of the site. The site would continue to function as the Coroner Medical Examiner site for the County of Los Angeles and the project would not conflict with any land use policies or regulations. Accordingly, no impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

c) CONFLICT WITH ANY APPLICABLE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN OR NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN?

No Impact. The proposed project would remove existing landscape trees and vegetation during excavation. However, as discussed in Section 4.4 above, none of the trees or vegetation is habitat or a biological community which would be managed under a conservation plan. Accordingly, no impacts to conservation plans would occur following implementation of the proposed project.

4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) RESULT IN THE LOSS OF AVAILABILITY OF A KNOWN MINERAL RESOURCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO THE REGION AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE?

No Impact. The County of Los Angeles General Plan establishes sand and gravel as mineral resources (DRP 1986). The proposed project would excavate fill materials, which would not result in the loss of either sand or gravel. Additionally, the site is not located within a mineral resource area as designated by the City of Los Angeles General Plan or the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan (Department of City Planning 2007). Accordingly, the project would not result in the loss of availability of minerals and no impacts to mineral resources would occur.

b) RESULT IN THE LOSS OF AVAILABILITY OF A LOCALLY IMPORTANT MINERAL RESOURCE RECOVERY SITE DELINEATED ON A LOCAL GENERAL PLAN, SPECIFIC PLAN OR OTHER LAND USE PLAN?

No Impact. Refer to Mineral Resources response (a) above. No impact to locally important mineral resource recovery sites would occur as a result of the proposed project.

4.11 NOISE

WOULD THE PROJECT RESULT IN:

a) EXPOSURE OF PERSONS TO OR GENERATION OF NOISE LEVELS IN EXCESS OF STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN THE LOCAL GENERAL PLAN OR NOISE ORDINANCE, OR APPLICABLE STANDARDS OF OTHER AGENCIES?

Less than Significant Impact. Section 41.40 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code indicates that no construction or repair work shall be performed between the hours of 9:00 PM and 7:00 AM of the following day on any weekday, before 8:00 AM or after 6:00 PM on any Saturday, or at any time on any Sunday. Section 112.05 of the Los Angeles Building Code specifies the maximum noise level of powered equipment or powered hand tools. Any powered equipment or powered hand tool that produces a maximum noise level exceeding 75 decibels (dBA) at a distance of 50 feet from construction and industrial machinery shall be prohibited. However, the equipment noise limitation shall not apply where compliance is technically infeasible. The City code states that "Technical infeasibility shall mean that said noise limitations cannot be complied with despite the use of mufflers, shields, sound barriers and/or other noise reduction device or techniques during the operation of the equipment."

Construction noise levels at and near the proposed project would fluctuate depending on the particular type, number, and duration of use of various pieces of construction equipment. Table 4.11-1 shows noise levels associated with various types of construction related equipment at 50 feet from the noise source compiled by the Federal Transit Administration (2006). The list was used in this analysis to estimate construction noise.

TABLE 4.11-1 TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT NOISE LEVELS

Equipment	Typical Noise Level 50 feet from source (dBA)
Backhoe	80
Compactor	82
Crane, Mobile	83
Dozer	85
Generator	81
Grader	85
Loader	85
Paver	89
Truck	88
Source: FTA 2006.	

The magnitude of construction noise impacts depends on the type of construction activity, the noise level generated by various pieces of construction equipment, the distance between the activity and noise sensitive receivers, and any shielding effects that might result from local barriers, including topography. A reasonable worst-case assumption is that the three loudest pieces of equipment (backhoe, truck, and loader) would operate simultaneously with periodic maximum noise level of 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Table 4.11-2 illustrates estimated sound levels from construction activities as a function of distance under the worst-case assumption based on the noise levels summarized in Table 4.11-1.

TABLE 4.11-2 ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION NOISE IN THE VICINITY OF AN ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION SITE

Distance Between Source and Receiver (ft)	Geometric Attenuation (dB)	Calculated Sound Level (dBA)
50	0	90
100	-6	84
200	-12	78
600	-22	68
Calculations based on FTA 2006. Note: This calculation does not include the effects, if any, of local shielding from walls, topography or other barriers which may reduce sound levels further.		

Simultaneous operation of a backhoe, truck, and loader could result in a combined noise level of 68 dBA at 600 feet. The estimated maximum noise level would not be continuous, nor would it

be typical of noise levels throughout the construction period; average noise levels (Leq) would be anticipated to be approximately 10 dBA less because of equipment operating only briefly at full power and moving to different parts of the work area.

The sensitive receptors closest to the project site are single- and multiple-family residences along Lord Street, approximately 650 feet to the south. As seen in Table 4.11-2, maximum, short-duration noise levels at this distance would be less than 68 dBA with average noise levels less than 58 dBA Leq. These noise levels would likely be heard only occasionally because of the existing high ambient noise level from traffic on Marengo Street and I-5, and noise from nearby industrial sources.

Due to the nature of the work, it would be technically infeasible to reduce equipment noise levels to less than 75 dBA at a distance of 50 feet; thus there would not be a violation of the municipal code. Further, as shown above, the impacts to off-site receptors would be less than significant.

b) EXPOSURE OF PERSONS TO OR GENERATION OF EXCESSIVE GROUNDBORNE VIBRATION OR GROUNDBORNE NOISE LEVELS?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not be expected to result in the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. The tenant improvements and construction of the crypt building would not require blasting or pile driving, and therefore would not be expected to result in excessive groundborne vibration or noise. There are no sensitive receptors close to the work area. Groundborne vibration and noise resulting from excavation activities would be extremely minor and would not affect any sensitive receptors. Impacts would be less than significant for the proposed project.

c) A SUBSTANTIAL PERMANENT INCREASE IN AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS IN THE PROJECT VICINITY ABOVE LEVELS EXISTING WITHOUT THE PROJECT?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. The new building would include a heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system that would generate noise. With the high existing ambient noise levels, it is estimated that additional HVAC equipment would increase noise levels in the vicinity of the project less than one dBA. This increase would not be substantial and is less than the five dBA allowed by the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Operation of the site would remain the same following construction and no permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site due to increased vehicle operations would occur.

d) A SUBSTANTIAL TEMPORARY OR PERIODIC INCREASE IN AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS IN THE PROJECT VICINITY ABOVE LEVELS EXISTING WITHOUT THE PROJECT?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction of the proposed project would result in minor, temporary increases in ambient noise levels. However, the project area is within the urban, developed area of downtown Los Angeles, and existing ambient noise levels are high. Additionally, as discussed above, the temporary increase in ambient noise levels during construction would be less than significant.

e) FOR A PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN AN AIRPORT LAND USE PLAN OR, WHERE SUCH A PLAN HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED, WITHIN TWO MILES OF A PUBLIC AIRPORT OR PUBIC USE AIRPORT, WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE RESIDING OR WORKING IN THE PROJECT AREA TO EXCESSIVE NOISE LEVELS?

No Impact. As discussed in section 4.7 above, the project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. The proposed project would not result in noise impacts related to proximity to an airport.

f) FOR A PROJECT WITHIN THE VICINITY OF A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP, WOULD THE PROJECT EXPOSE PEOPLE RESIDING OR WORKING IN THE PROJECT AREA TO EXCESSIVE NOISE LEVELS?

No Impact. The project site is not located in the vicinity of any private airstrips. As such, no noise impacts from proximity to private airstrips would occur as a result of the proposed project.

4.12 POPULATION AND HOUSING

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) INDUCE SUBSTANTIAL POPULATION GROWTH IN AN AREA, EITHER DIRECTLY (FOR EXAMPLE, BY PROPOSING NEW HOMES AND BUSINESSES) OR INDIRECTLY (FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH EXTENSION OF ROADS OR OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE)?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. During construction, the work force is expected to be generated from the existing labor pool in the City and County of Los Angeles. Following construction, the Coroner would continue to

serve the County of Los Angeles and no new homes, businesses, or infrastructure would be created. Accordingly, no impacts to population growth would occur as a result of the proposed project.

b) DISPLACE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF EXISTING HOUSING, NECESSITATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT HOUSING ELSEWHERE?

No Impact. Activities associated with the proposed project would occur entirely within the Coroner site and would not displace any existing housing. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to housing nor necessitate the construction of replacement housing and no impact would occur.

c) DISPLACE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, NECESSITATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT HOUSING ELSEWHERE?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. The proposed project would not displace any people, or result in the need for replacement housing. No impact would occur as a result of the proposed project of the project.

4.13 PUBLIC SERVICES

WOULD THE PROJECT

a) RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE PHYSICAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROVISION OF NEW OR PHYSICALLY ALTERED GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES, NEED FOR NEW OR PHYSICALLY ALTERED GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ACCEPTABLE SERVICE RATIOS, RESPONSE TIMES OR OTHER PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC SERVICES:

I) FIRE PROTECTION?

No Impact. The project site would continue to be served by Division 1 of the Los Angeles Fire Department (Department of City Planning 2007). The closest fire station to the site is Fire Station #2 (1962 East Cesar E Chavez Avenue). Construction and operation of the proposed project would not require additional fire facilities and access to the site would be maintained during construction in accordance with department policies and regulations. As such, no impacts to fire protection would occur as a result of the proposed project.

II) POLICE PROTECTION?

No Impact. The Hollenbeck Station of the Central Los Angeles Police Department (1936 East 1st Street) would continue to serve the project site. Neither construction nor operation of the proposed project would require additional police facilities and access would be maintained during construction in accordance with police department policies and procedures. Accordingly, no impacts to police protection would occur as a result of the proposed project.

III) SCHOOLS?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. It would not provide new housing or a large number of employment opportunities; therefore it would not generate new students or increase the demand on local school systems. No impact to schools would occur as a result of the proposed project.

IV) PARKS?

No Impact. The project site is located within the downtown Los Angeles area and no designated National or State parks are located within the vicinity. Additionally, the proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. No impacts to parks, whether through physical alteration, access restriction, or increase in usage would occur as a result of the proposed project.

V) OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES?

No Impact. The proposed project is not expected to adversely impact any other governmental services in the area, and would serve to implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. No impacts to other public facilities would occur as a result of the proposed project.

4.14 RECREATION

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) INCREASE THE USE OF EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD AND REGIONAL PARKS OR OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SUCH THAT SUBSTANTIAL PHYSICAL DETERIORATION OF THE FACILITY WOULD OCCUR OR BE ACCELERATED?

No Impact. Refer to question 4.13(e) above. No impacts related to increased usage of neighborhood parks would occur as a result of the proposed project.

b) INCLUDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE PHYSICAL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner, and would not result in the creation of any new recreational facilities or expansion of existing recreation facilities. As such, the proposed project would not impact existing recreational opportunities.

4.15 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) CAUSE AN INCREASE IN TRAFFIC THAT IS SUBSTANTIAL IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING TRAFFIC LOAD AND CAPACITY OF THE STREET SYSTEM (I.E., RESULT IN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EITHER THE NUMBER OF VEHICLE TRIPS, THE VOLUME TO CAPACITY RATIO ON ROADS, OR CONGESTION AT INTERSECTIONS)?

Less than Significant Impact. During construction, the number of daily trips within the vicinity would increase as a result of construction workers traveling to and from the site. However, these increases would be relatively minor and temporary in nature. Approximately 2,250 cubic yards of soil would be transported offsite; however, such a minor amount of soil would require only one to two trucks, which would not substantially increase the amount of traffic in the area. Operation of the project would not result in an increase in vehicle trips or volume to capacity ratios. As such, impacts to roadway congestion and traffic increases would be less than significant for the proposed project.

b) EXCEED, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR CUMULATIVELY, A LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD ESTABLISHED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR DESIGNATED ROADS OR HIGHWAYS?

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed, the proposed project would not significantly increase the number of vehicle trips within the vicinity of the site. In addition, operation of the proposed project would result in no increase in vehicle trips. Accordingly, the project, when considered alone or with future anticipated increases in traffic would not result in individually or cumulatively significant impacts to level of service standards.

c) RESULTS IN A CHANGE IN AIR TRAFFIC PATTERNS, INCLUDING EITHER AN INCREASE IN TRAFFIC LEVELS OR A CHANGE IN LOCATION THAT RESULTS IN SUBSTANTIAL SAFETY RISKS?

No Impact. The proposed project does not have the potential to affect air traffic patterns. No impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

d) SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE HAZARDS DUE TO A DESIGN FEATURE (E.G., SHARP CURVES OR DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS) OR INCOMPATIBLE USES (E.G., FARM EQUIPMENT)?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. No dangerous curves or intersections or incompatible uses would be created; therefore, no design-related impacts would occur. Construction of the crypt would require the temporary closure of the sidewalk on the north side of Marengo Street adjacent to the project site during operation of the crane. The County would coordinate with the City of Los Angeles to obtain the appropriate permits for the sidewalk closure prior to the start of construction. In addition, the City of Los Angeles will determine the appropriate procure and detour route for pedestrian traffic along the north side of Marengo Street. Pedestrians could be re-routed to the south side of Marengo Street via the crosswalk at State Street, 1,200 feet to the southeast or Mission Road, 400 feet to the northwest. Because the County would coordinate with the City of Los Angeles to determine the appropriate measures to undertake in order to ensure the safety of the pedestrians during the temporary sidewalk closure, impacts would be less than significant.

e) RESULT IN INADEQUATE EMERGENCY ACCESS?

Less than Significant Impact. Refer to Section 4.8(g) for discussion of emergency access. Impacts would be less than significant for the proposed project.

f) RESULT IN INADEQUATE PARKING CAPACITY?

Less than Significant Impact. During construction of the proposed project, a crane would be required to install the pre-fabricated pieces of the foundation and crypt building walls. The crane would occupy three parking spaces along Marengo Street for approximately two weeks. The County would coordinate with the City of Los Angeles to obtain the proper parking permits for the crane prior to the start of construction. The loss of three parking spaces along Marengo Street would be minor and temporary. Additional parking along Marengo Street could accommodate the loss and impacts would be less than significant.

Staging areas for equipment would occur west of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building between the Administration building and the proposed location of the crypt building for Phase I, and east of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building for Phase II. A supplemental staging area would be available in an existing executive parking lot west of the Administration building if needed during Phase I (see Figure 2-4). Phase I would not result in a loss of parking unless the supplemental staging area is required. This would result in a temporary reduction of five employee parking spaces, which would be accommodated to the adjacent lot just west of the executive lot. Phase II would result in the loss of 15 parking spaces. However, this loss would be temporary in nature and the parking areas would be fully restored following construction. In addition, the 15 employee spaces lost during Phase II would be accommodated in an existing adjacent LAC + USC Medical Center lot to the east. During operation of the proposed project, the existing parking areas would continue to serve the Coroner's staff and visitors. No additional parking would be required as a result of the proposed project and impacts would be less than significant.

g) CONFLICT WITH ADOPTED POLICIES, PLANS, OR PROGRAMS SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION (E.G., BUS TURNOUTS, BICYCLE RACKS)?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner, and would not involve the construction or removal of alternative transportation facilities. No impact would occur.

4.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

WOULD THE PROJECT:

a) EXCEED WASTEWATER TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPLICABLE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. The proposed project would not result in changes to facilities or operations at existing wastewater treatment facilities. As such, no modification to a wastewater treatment facility's current wastewater discharges would occur. No impact to wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB would occur.

b) REQUIRE OR RESULT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WATER OR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS?

No Impact. Construction activities would utilize existing water supplies and would not generate wastewater. Operation of the proposed project would not require substantial amounts of additional water supplies nor would it generate wastewater. Accordingly, the project would not require the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities and no impacts would occur.

c) REQUIRE OR RESULT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW STORM WATER DRAINAGE FACILITIES OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES, THE CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS?

No Impact. Runoff from the site would continue to drain to the existing stormdrain network. The amount of runoff would not significantly increase as a result of either construction or operation-related activities. Accordingly, no impact to stormwater drainage capacity would occur as a result of the proposed project.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner, and would not require new or expanded water supply entitlements during construction or operation. Accordingly, no impacts to water supplies would occur.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner. Neither construction nor operation of the proposed project would generate wastewater. As such, no impact to wastewater treatment capacity would occur and no mitigation would be required.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction spoils from excavation would be re-used or disposed of at approved County landfills in accordance with applicable County regulations. The amount of debris generated during project construction is not expected to significantly impact landfill capacities. Phase II of the proposed project would include abatement of hazardous materials associated with the existing building materials and mechanical and electrical systems. Hazardous materials removed from the site would be transported to an appropriate disposal facility permitted to receive such waste. Operation of the proposed project would not generate any solid waste. Impacts to landfill capacity would be less than significant for the proposed project.

g) Comply with Federal State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed, solid waste would be disposed of at County landfills. Transportation and disposal of construction debris would be in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations. No waste would be generated during operation of

the proposed project. Accordingly, impacts related to solid waste would be less than significant for the proposed project.

4.17 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) DOES THE PROJECT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DEGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE HABITAT OF A FISH OR WILDLIFE SPECIES, CAUSE A FISH OR WILDLIFE POPULATION TO DROP BELOW SELF-SUSTAINING LEVELS, THREATEN TO ELIMINATE A PLANT OR ANIMAL COMMUNITY, REDUCE THE NUMBER OR RESTRICT THE RANGE OF A RARE OR ENDANGERED PLANT OR ANIMAL, OR ELIMINATE IMPORTANT EXAMPLES OF THE MAJOR PERIODS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY OR PREHISTORY?

Less than Significant Impact. The analysis conducted in this IS/MND results in a determination that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the local environment. The proposed project would implement tenant improvements to the existing Coroner's Medical Examiner's facilities, including rehabilitating and updating the mechanical and electrical systems, and increase the capacity for cold storage of decedents at the Coroner in a manner that would allow the Coroner's Medical Examiner's site to continue to operate and would not alter the cultural setting of the site. As such, the proposed project would not have the potential to degrade the environment in this regard. As described in the analysis, the potential for impacts to biological resources from construction of the proposed project would be less than significant following implementation of the provided mitigation measure. The analysis also concluded that the project would not result in the temporary degradation of the environment through construction-related noise and/or air quality impacts. Accordingly, the proposed project involves no potential for significant impacts through the degradation of the quality of the environment, the reduction in the habitat or population of fish or wildlife, including endangered plants or animals, the elimination of a plant or animal community or example of a major period of California history or prehistory.

b) DOES THE PROJECT HAVE IMPACTS THAT ARE INDIVIDUALLY LIMITED, BUT CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE? ("CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE" MEANS THAT THE INCREMENTAL EFFECTS OF A PROJECT ARE CONSIDERABLE WHEN VIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH THE EFFECTS OF PAST PROJECTS, THE EFFECTS OF OTHER CURRENT PROJECTS, AND THE EFFECTS OF PROBABLE FUTURE PROJECTS.)

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed in the IS/MND, the proposed project would result in impacts to some environmental resources. The implementation of the identified project-

specific mitigation measures and compliance with applicable codes, ordinances, laws and other required regulations would reduce the magnitude of any impacts associated with construction activities to a less than significant level.

The proposed project site is located on County property, surrounded by the downtown Los Angeles area, where intense development continues to occur in the vicinity of the site. At this level of planning in an area of such intense development, it is not possible to identify all present and probable future projects in the vicinity of the proposed project; however, future development is anticipated and planned for in various local and regional plans applicable to the project area including the City of Los Angeles General Plan, the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan, the Regional Transportation Plan, the Regional Water Quality Control Plan, and the Southern California Association of Governments Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide.

According to the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064(i)(3)), a Lead Agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project will comply with the requirements in a previously approved plan or mitigation program which provides specific requirements that will avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative problem (e.g., water quality control plan, air quality plan, integrated waste management plan) within the geographic area in which the project is located. The proposed project is consistent with local and regional land use, air quality, water quality, and transportation plans. Accordingly, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on these issue areas when considered cumulatively with related projects in the vicinity. Additional issue areas are discussed below.

CONSTRUCTION

Simultaneous construction activities associated with multiple projects in the project area have the potential to result in cumulative impacts related to biological resources, hydrology and water quality, utilities and service systems, and GHG emissions that cause global climate change. Cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, mineral resources, noise, recreation, and public services impacts are typically site specific and do not result in cumulatively considerable impacts when considered in conjunction with other related projects. As such, the proposed project has the potential to result in cumulative impacts to biological resources, hydrology and water quality, utilities and service systems, and global climate change/GHG emissions.

As discussed, the proposed project would permanently remove landscape vegetation west of the Coroner's Medical Examiner's building. Although the removal of landscape vegetation is not considered significant, should construction activities occur during nesting bird season, impacts to nesting birds could occur. Mitigation provided in the analysis would reduce impacts to biological resources during construction of the proposed project to a less than significant level. Related

projects would also be required to comply with the survey requirements and not violate any local policies or biological resource protection ordinances in order to be consistent with all applicable Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, and other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. As such, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in cumulatively considerable impacts to biological resources.

With regard to hydrology and water quality, construction activities associated with the proposed project and other nearby projects have the potential to degrade water quality through contaminated runoff and erosion of exposed sediment. The proposed project would prepare a SWPPP and WWECP and implement required BMPs for water quality during construction. It is assumed that other projects in the area would implement similar mitigation measures and BMPs to avoid significantly impacting water quality. Additionally, any nearby project affecting more than one acre of land would be required to prepare a SWPPP to address site and project specific hydrology and water quality impacts associated with their project. The SWPPP would include measures the projects would be required to implement in order to prevent significant impacts to water quality. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would result in cumulatively considerable impacts to water quality during construction.

Cumulative impacts to utilities and service systems resulting from construction of the proposed project and related projects could result if the amount of solid waste requiring disposal exceeded the available capacity of landfills. However, the proposed project would only require the removal and disposal of a very minor amount of construction debris during site clearing and grading. Additionally, County landfills are permitted to accept a designated approved amount of solid waste per day and any contractor attempting to dispose of solid waste at that landfill would be required to dispose of it at another facility still accepting debris that day, or wait for the following day. Because County landfills are self-regulating in this manner, cumulative impacts related to exceeding landfill capacity would not be anticipated for the proposed project.

Global climate change is caused by the addition of massive quantities of GHGs to the atmosphere due primarily to human activities in the last 150 years from all over the world. For example, about 26 billion metric tonnes of CO_2 were added to the Earth's atmosphere in 2005 alone. If viewed apart from the GHG emissions produced by activities elsewhere in the world, the mass of GHG emissions generated by the construction of an individual project such as the proposed project would be so minute that the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere would essentially remain the same. Therefore, the project's individual climate change impact is considered less than significant. However, the increasing concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere is caused by the aggregate GHG emissions from a variety of human activities throughout the world, including development projects. Therefore, it is appropriate to evaluate a project's contribution to global climate change in a cumulative, worldwide context.

According to constructions emissions modeling performed using URBEMIS computer software, the proposed project would result in the one-time emission of approximately 7 metric tons (8 tons) of CO_2 during the construction phase. To establish a context in which to evaluate the potential cumulative significance of the project's construction emissions, it is noted that annual average per capita CO_2 emissions in California are currently about 13 metric tons (14 tons) per person according to the Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan issued by CARB in June, 2008; compliance with the AB 32 GHG reduction target would require annual average per capita CO_2 emissions of about 9 metric tons (10 tons) per person by 2020. The project's one-time construction GHG emissions are the equivalent of the emissions of roughly one-half of one existing California resident's emissions in only one year, and are under the annual per capita emissions level needed to achieve the AB 32 GHG reduction target for 2020. When viewed in connection with the GHG emissions of past, current, and probable future projects throughout the state and the world, the one-time contribution of less than the average California resident's annual GHG emissions would not be considered cumulatively significant. Therefore, the project's short-term contribution to global climate change is considered less than cumulatively significant.

OPERATION

Typical projects would have the potential to result in cumulative operational impacts to aesthetics/light/glare, hydrology and water quality, utilities and service systems, population and housing, and global climate change/GHG emissions. Operation of the proposed project would have no impact on population and housing and as such, would not have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable impacts when considered with other projects in the vicinity. Accordingly, operation of the proposed project has the potential to result in impacts to aesthetics/light/glare, hydrology and water quality, utilities and service systems, and global climate change/GHG emissions.

Although the project would alter the existing appearance of the project site by constructing a new crypt building and associated site improvements, they would be in keeping with the current use and character of the site and no other projects are currently proposed for the immediate area surrounding the project site. Accordingly, the project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts related to aesthetics/light/ glare.

With regard to hydrology and water quality, an increase in the amount of impervious surface area, such as the crypt building, resulting from the proposed project and other nearby projects have the potential to degrade water quality through contaminated runoff. Operation of the proposed project would alter the existing layout of the site through the addition of the proposed crypt building; however, the overall drainage of the site would not change and stormwater would continue to drain to the existing stormdrain network. The relatively minor increase in impervious surface area would not significantly increase the amount of surface runoff. Other projects in the area would be required to implement mitigation measures and best management practices to

avoid significantly impacting water quality. Additionally, the project site and surrounding vicinity are not located on a designated groundwater recharge area and would not interfere with groundwater recharge. As such, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would result in cumulatively considerable impacts to water quality during operation of the proposed project.

Operation of the proposed project would require the use of electricity, water supplies, landfills, and wastewater services. Large redevelopment projects in the area would be required to have adequate utility and service system supplies available prior to project approval. The increase in the usage of utilities and service systems by the proposed project would not be of a sufficient amount to result in a cumulative impact when considered with other related projects in the area.

As previously discussed, OPR has been tasked with developing CEQA climate change significance guidelines. OPR has indicated that many significant questions must be answered before a consistent, effective, and workable process for completing climate change analyses can be created for use in CEQA documents. No air district or other regulatory agency in California, including SCAQMD, has identified a CEQA significance threshold for GHG emissions generated by a proposed project, or a methodology for analyzing impacts related to GHG emissions or global climate change. On a local level, the County of Los Angeles has not adopted a climate change significance threshold. However, neither the CEQA Statutes nor the CEQA Guidelines require thresholds of significance or particular methodologies for performing an impact analysis. The determination of significance is left to the judgment and discretion of the lead agency.

A discussion of approaches to significance thresholds is included in the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) document CEQA and Climate Change (CAPCOA 2008). Included in the discussion are various levels of mass emissions thresholds. While there are some good arguments against using mass emissions thresholds, especially for large projects, the use of this type of threshold, coupled with mitigation measures that demonstrate consistency with the goals of AB 32, is considered appropriate and applicable for smaller projects, including the proposed project. The smallest of the thresholds considered is 900 metric tons of CO_2e, which has been selected as the applicable threshold for this project.

In addition to the achievements discussed in Section 4.3(b), the County has also committed to achieve several additional goals and standards moving forward. The County has pledged to be a "Cool County" by establishing a GHG emission footprint, developing a GHG mitigation plan, working with local entities to reduce regional GHG 80 percent by 2050, and supporting further legislation to raise Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards. The County plans to install energy saving systems on all vending machines on its properties to reduce operating costs and GHG emissions. The County will also develop a program to allow employees to purchase public transportation passes through a "pre-tax" payroll plan and create a countywide "solar mapping" portal to provide an internet-based resource for residential and commercial building owners to receive information on the viability of installing rooftop solar projects (LACDPW 2008).

The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the AQMP or alter the existing land use of the site in a way that would result in a substantial increase in pollutant emissions, including GHG. Operation of the proposed project is estimated to emit approximately 3,541 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MTCO_2e$) annually, an increase over the existing GHG emissions from the project site of 380 $MTCO_2e$. This increase represents an approximately 12 percent increase in annual GHG emissions. As discussed, the County has adopted goals and policies with the aim of reducing GHG emissions by 20 percent by 2015 and has undertaken steps towards meeting that goal. The proposed project would comply with the goals and policies of the County's Energy and Environmental Policy by rehabilitating and replacing the existing air conditioning and ventilation equipment with newer, more efficient equipment. Additionally, the proposed project would be accounted for in County estimates of total facility GHG emissions and offset reduction goals. When considered with the achievements towards reducing GHG emissions and improving the efficiency of energy usage discussed in Section 4.3(b) and the future commitments described above, the 380 $MTCO_2e$ increase in GHG emissions would not be considered significant. In addition, CAPCOA has issued proposed interim thresholds of 900, 10,000, or 25,000 $MTCO_2e$ annually, with 900 $MTCO_2e$ being the suggested threshold for small projects. GHG emissions from the proposed project would be less than all three of the proposed interim thresholds, including the most stringent threshold for small projects, which the proposed project would be categorized as. Accordingly, cumulative impacts related to the emission of GHG would be less than significant.

c) DOES THE PROJECT HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS, WHICH WILL CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Mitigation measures are provided to reduce the project's potential effects on biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and hazards and hazardous materials below the level of significance. No additional mitigation measures would be required. Adverse effects on human beings resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant.

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7 RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The Draft IS/MND was distributed for public review on November 1, 2007, initiating a 30-day public review period pursuant to CEQA and its implementing guidelines. During this public review period, one comment letter was received from a public agency and no comment letters were received from citizens. A copy of the comment letter is provided in this section, as well as responses to the individual comments contained in the letter.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
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November 27, 2007

P.D. Rohrer, Principal Facilities Project Manager
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900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Re: SCH#2007111004; CEQA Notice of Completion; Mitigated Negative Declaration Coroner Crypt Building and Medical Examiner Building Project; Department of Public Works; Los Angeles County, California

Dear P.D. Rohrer:

The Native American Heritage Commission is the state agency designated to protect California's Native American Cultural Resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per CEQA guidelines § 15064.5(b)(c). In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE)', and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action:

√ Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS). Contact information for the Information Center nearest you is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation (916/653-7278)/ http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/1068/files/IC%20Roster.pdf The record search will determine:

- If a part or the entire APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
- If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.
- If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
- If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

1-1

√ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.

- The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure.
- The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

1-2

√ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for:

* A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project area and information on tribal contacts in the project vicinity that may have additional cultural resource information. Please provide this office with the following citation format to assist with the Sacred Lands File search request: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle citation with name, township, range and section; .

- The NAHC advises the use of Native American Monitors to ensure proper identification and care given cultural resources that may be discovered. The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact (APE). In some cases, the existence of a Native American cultural resources may be known only to a local tribe(s).

1-3

√ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

1-4

√ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.

* CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the

1-5

NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens. 1-5 cont.

√ Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the CEQA Guidelines mandate procedures to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery. 1-6

√ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in § 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines, when significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project planning and implementation 1-7

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

Cc: State Clearinghouse

LETTER 1: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Comment No.	Response
1-1	An archaeological records search was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University, Fullerton on August 7, 2007. The search indicated that there are three archaeological sites and 10 historic resources located within a 1/2-mile radius of the project site. Given the highly developed nature of the project site, a pre-construction field survey would not be appropriate. Additionally, the record search did not reveal any recorded resources within the project site and mitigation included in the proposed project will require a cultural resource monitor to be present during ground disturbing activities.
1-2	As discussed, the evaluation of the proposed project determined that no archaeological field survey would be required.
1-3	The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted for a Sacred Land File search of the project area. No such sites were identified within the vicinity of the project site. As discussed in section 4.5 of the IS/MND, no areas of archaeological sensitivity were identified within the project area; however, a certified archaeological monitor will be present to monitor ground disturbing activities.
1-4	As discussed in section 4.5, cultural resources monitors will be present during ground disturbing activities. Should cultural resources, including Native American artifacts, be discovered, mitigation is included for their identification and evaluation. The project area was not determined to be an archaeologically sensitive area; however, a certified archaeological monitor will be present during ground disturbing activities.
1-5	The IS/MND did not identify the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains with the area of potential effect (APE); therefore, no agreements with Native Americans would be required. Should remains be discovered, which are identified as Native American, required agreements would be made for their appropriate and dignified handling in accordance with CEQA Guideline 15064.5(d).
1-6	The IS/MND did not identify the presence of human remains with the APE; however, mitigation is provided that requires a certified archaeological monitor to be present during ground disturbing activities and text has been added to Section 4.5 to clarify the project's compliance with Health and Safety Code

§7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

1-7 No significant cultural resources were identified on the project site as part of the archival records search; therefore, no avoidance is necessary.

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8 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6 requires that mitigation measures identified in environmental review documents prepared in accordance with CEQA be implemented after a project is approved. Therefore, this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared to ensure compliance with the adopted mitigation measures during preparation of the final plans and specifications and project construction phase of the County of Los Angeles Department of Coroner Crypt Building and Medical Examiner Tenant Improvement Project.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is the lead agency responsible for implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the MND. The MMRP includes the following information:

- the phase of the project during which the required mitigation measure must be implemented;
- the phase of the project during which the required mitigation measure must be monitored;
- the enforcement agency; and
- the monitoring agency.

The MMRP also includes a checklist to be used during the mitigation monitoring period. The checklist will verify the name of the monitor, the date of the monitoring activity, and any related remarks for each mitigation measure.

TABLE 8-1 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement / Monitoring Agency	Verification of Compliance		
				Initial	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
BIO-1. Should clearing, grading, or tree removal activities occur during the breeding season (generally March 1-August 31, as early as February 1 for raptors) for migratory non-game native bird species, a pre-construction presence/absence survey shall be performed to detect any protected native birds in the trees to be removed and other suitable nesting habitat within 300 feet of the construction work area (500 feet for raptors). The survey shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of clearance/construction work. If a protected native bird is found or an active nest is located, all clearing and construction within 300 feet of the nest (within 500 feet for raptor nests) shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. Construction limits shall be established in the field with flagging and stakes or construction fencing to avoid a nest and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. The results of this measure shall be recorded to document compliance with applicable State and Federal laws pertaining to the protection of native birds.	Pre-construction	Pre-construction	LADPW			
CULTURAL RESOURCES						
CUL-1. All ground disturbing activities in connection with the proposed project shall be monitored by a qualified archaeological monitor. In the event archaeological materials are encountered during ground disturbing activities, the construction contractor shall cease activity in the affected are until the discovery is evaluated by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the provisions of CEQA Section 15064.5. The archaeologist shall complete any requirements for the	Construction	Construction	LADPW			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement / Monitoring Agency	Verification of Compliance		
				Initial	Date	Remarks
mitigation of adverse effects on any resources determined to be significant and implement appropriate treatment measures. **CUL-2.** All ground disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. In the event human remains are discovered during earthmoving activities, the construction contractor shall cease activity in the area of the discovery and the Los Angeles County Coroner shall be contacted to assess the find in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. No work will resume in the discovery area until appropriate treatment measure have been implemented.	Construction	Construction	LADPW			
GEOLOGY AND SOILS						
GEO-1: Design of the crypt shall adhere to all recommendations and parameters established in the Geotechnical Investigation Report (Kleinfelder 2007b) prepared for the project with respect to minimum foundation width, footings, sediment moisture content, setback distances, allowable bearing pressures, coefficients of friction, pipe bedding and pipe zone material particle size and compaction, excavation slope inclination, retaining wall requirements and lateral load, floor slab thickness and subgrade reaction, sidewalk scarification depth, subsurface moisture, concrete curing, and drainage design. Final project plans and specifications shall be reviewed by a qualified geotechnical engineer to ensure compliance with recommended design parameters.	Final Site Design	Final Site Design	LADPW			
GEO-2: If undocumented fill is encountered at the design elevation following excavation, the fill shall be overexcavated to remove any disturbed or otherwise compressible materials and existing fill. Overexcavations should extend into native soils below the bottom of foundations and floor slabs. Excavated	Construction	Construction	LADPW			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement / Monitoring Agency	Verification of Compliance		
				Initial	Date	Remarks
sediment shall be replaced with engineered fill. **GEO-3:** All excavation and backfilling shall be conducted under the supervision of a representative of a qualified geotechnical engineer. Confirmation testing of soil shall be conducted during construction if deemed appropriate by the representative.	Construction	Construction	LADPW			